OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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Oswestry
Soldier sculpture will help war heroes
Page 3

Welshpool
Rising music stars in town for concert
Page 11

Property
The latest homes for sale in the area
Page 19-23

VILLAGERS LOSE 35-HOME FIGHT

OBJECTORS have lost their battle to stop 35 homes being built in West Felton.

Villagers have campaigned against plans for the new development of homes and four commercial units on land owned by the Tedsmore Estate at West Felton, but this week Shropshire Council granted permission.

Planning councillors backed the application because the county does not have five years of allocated building land and is having to follow the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

by Sue Austin

Parish councillor and chairman of the parish plan committee Steve Haworth said that residents felt the village had reached capacity and that the parish plan was against more development.

"Most of the residents live in houses that have been built over the past 25 years – this is not a question of stubborn villagers not wanting to play their part in development," he said.

"This is a dormitory village that is at the tipping point of sustainability. West Felton could swing from rural village to suburbia."

County Councillor Steve Charmley said he had originally been in favour of some small scale development in West Felton.

Councillor Martin Bennett said there were currently planning permissions pending for 7,000 houses in Shropshire which developers are sitting on.

"Developers are not developing. Yet because we do not have a five-year allocation of housing land we have to follow the National Planning Policy Framework.

"Our back is against the wall and a pistol is against our head."

"It appears that, unless the plan is to put a housing estate right on the top of Old Oswestry, the hill fort, and bulldoze an ancient monument, there is little we can do."

Rory Galliers, for the developer Balfours, who revealed he also lived in the village, said West Felton had 1,400 residents and yet there had only been 10 to 12 letters of objection to the scheme.

School

"The 35 houses will include 10 bungalows with the remainder a mix of large and small family homes so the effect on the infrastructure, such as the school, has been reduced," he said.

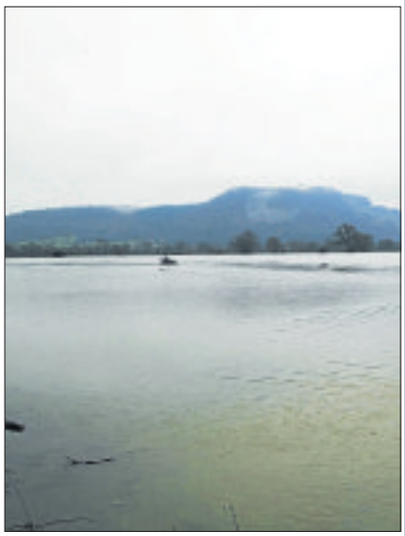
"The site is a small and oddly shaped piece of agricultural land with the use of large agricultural vehicles having been a constant cause of complaint. In fact it has not been cropped for some time."

A scheme for 10 bungalows to be built in Mapsis Way, Morda was also given planning permission at the planning meeting on Tuesday.

Councillor Joyce Barrow told the meeting: "We are in danger of changing the character of our hamlets and villages if we carry on granting these developments."

From this to this – in just one week

Snow falling on shoppers in Oswestry Town Centre earlier this week.



Water levels still high at Llandrino. A view across flooded fields towards Criggion and Rodneys Pillar.

PEOPLE in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas are bracing themselves for even more severe weather after heavy rain and snow this week.

Snowfall on Monday and Tuesday mornings took many by surprise to add to the misery of flooded roads with forecasters predicting lots more bad weather to come and the threat of road closures.

A 40ft oak tree crashed onto a house at West Felton and with the poor conditions combining with road works on the A483 near Chirk there were long delays for motorists. Councillor Terry Evans who represents Chirk on Wrexham Borough Council Facebooked a message yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) saying: "Severe weather around Wrexham County Borough likely to affect roads and travel from 2-10pm today. A483 Bridge between Ruabon And Chirk will be closed."

The A490 between Welshpool and Forden was closed again at Cilcewydd as the River Severn overflowed alongside the Montgomeryshire Airport and roads in the Llandrinio and Maesbury area were only passable with extreme care. And yesterday (Wednesday) there were new worries as severe winds swept the region bringing fears of more damage to property. Gusts of up to 90mph were being forecast with the Met Office predicting damage, and Mid Wales and Shropshire rivers were expected to rise again.

Heavy winds and rain crossed the area again yesterday with more on the way on Friday and Saturday.

The Environment Agency said that although water levels were dropping, the heavy rain forecasted would bring it back to peak levels.

Meanwhile, flooding will not affect the planned reopening of the Park Hall Countryside Experience near Oswestry on Saturday. The attraction reopens on Saturday for lamb feeding and opens daily until March 2.

● **Lucky – See Page 2**

Planning law move welcomed by farmer

A FARMER whose 1,000-cow dairy development is being held up by planning law has welcomed a change in legislation where a new court will tackle unnecessary delays.

Reforms to the judicial review system, which will see legal disputes over major developments fast-tracked for consideration, could help Fraser Jones, whose Lower Leighton Farm near Welshpool is currently the focus of a high-profile case in the planning courts.

Although Mr Jones was granted permission in October, a challenge to the decision by the World Society for the Protection of Animals has halted work.

County lawyer and senior partner at FBC Manby Bowdler, Niall Blackie, welcomed the reforms on behalf of Mr Jones.

He said: "Mr Jones has been prevented from starting work on a project which was approved four months ago, but presently it could take another six months until the challenge and trial process can start.

"It is particularly important to cut the time frame down. Presently, a case might be issued just within the six week time limit and then take eight or nine months to get to a hearing.

"I'm delighted to see the changes which will unclog the judicial review system."

Police plea after attack

A MAN was robbed of £60 and his mobile phone after being set upon in Oswestry.

Police are seeking witnesses to the assault, saying that the 22-year-old man was set up upon by four men and a woman.

Four people have since been arrested on suspicion of robbery and given bail.

The robbery happened at around 1.15am on Saturday in Blackgate Street.

Detective Constable Paul Rogers, said: "We are appealing for witnesses to contact Shrewsbury CID by calling 101."

Police chief in surprise appearance at meeting

WEST Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner made his first public appearance on Monday since an operation for lung cancer and revealed that he would soon be starting chemotherapy.

Bill Longmore, made a surprise appearance at the meeting of Oswestry Town Council, alongside his deputy, Barry Sheldon, who had been invited to attend.

The 75-year-old said he had wanted to attend after being unable to fulfil his engagement when he fell ill earlier this year.

He told councillors and members of the public: "I recently had an operation and unfortunately surgeons were unable to remove any of the cancer.

"I have to go for chemotherapy but I shall go on and fight this. If it were 10-15 years ago people would be asking 'how long have you got' but medical changes have been great and I hope I will be here for some long time.

"I love this job and I have a deputy in Barry who works incredibly hard. We work together and we share the same ideals. We want to work for the good of the people."

Mr Longmore praised the National Health Service whose care was "superb".

He said he hoped he would be able to continue his role during his treatment.

Funds found for cameras

OSWESTRY has been promised funding to run the town's CCTV system for three years by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

But Bill Longmore and his deputy Barry Sheldon were unable to give an assurance to Oswestry Town Council on Monday night that West Mercia would give any funding to renew the town centre system, which is out of date.

Mr Sheldon told Oswestry Town Council that the funding for all Shropshire's CCTV would be guaranteed for the next three years.

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CONTENTS

Comment	6
Letters	7
Welshpool	10, 11
Property	19-23
Nostalgia	28
Arts	30
Gig Guide	31
Wildside	32
Sport	38-40

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Water levels still high at Llandrino. A truck ploughs through water on the B4393. *Picture: Peter Shah.*

Roads covered in snow at Trefonen near Oswestry. *Picture Peter Flemmich.*

Lucky escape as tree crashes into house

by Graham Breeze

A FAMILY escaped injury when a tree crashed onto their home at West Felton at the height of the weekend storms.

Rain, snow, ice and floods there was no let-up to the misery as Shropshire and Mid Wales suffered yet more extreme weather this week.

Peter Stokes, his wife and two children, were inside their home at Nursery Close, West Felton on Sunday when a 40ft oak tree from a neighbour's garden crashed down.

Ceilings of an upstairs bathroom and bedroom collapsed while the ceiling of a downstairs dining room also caved in following the impact at the height of the storm.

Thunder

Neighbours reported hearing a sound like "thunder" as the tree came down, also causing damage to the family's Rover 25 which was parked in the drive.

Robert Lawson, who lives on the estate, said: "I heard it come down. It sounded like thunder. It was definitely the winds, they were really strong." The family of four are now staying with relatives while the structural damage to their home is assessed.

Elsewhere flooding brought chaos to the border areas as the River Severn broke its banks causing widespread problems as forecasters predicted more severe weather for the rest of the week.

The A490 between Welshpool and Forden was closed to traffic for the second week running at Cilcewedd with vehicles again trapped in the water close to the Montgomeryshire Airport, flooding hit roads in the Llandrinio areas.

Many side roads were blocked by surface water and the B4385 between Garthmyl and Forden was also closed to traffic as the Severn broke its banks close to the former Montgomery Railway Station.

Farmland in the Pool Quay, Llanymynech and Maesbury areas was under deep water until Monday when the rain was followed by flurries of heavy snow in both Oswestry and Welshpool, bringing even more problems for motorists.

On Wednesday, an amber warning to "be prepared", for strong wind was in force for Mid Wales as more severe weather was forecast to hit the area with no sign of a let-up.

The house crushed by a tree, in Nursery Close, West Felton. *Picture: Bob Greaves.*

Lights on a church raise £440 for charity

A CROWN of light that shone out from the church tower in Llansilin, near Oswestry, raised £440 for charity.

Parishioners donated money to have a bulb lit in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event. The crown shone over the village during December.

St Silin's Church spokeswoman Val Burton, said: "The church is delighted to announce that the splendid sum of £440 will be shared between the Severn Hospice and Hope House.

"Thank you to everybody who supported such a worthwhile venture."

Mrs Burton said St Silin's Church was holding some of its services in the parish room over the winter as it was easier to heat.

A series of four evening Lent talks are being held, led by the Reverend Mike Powell, of St Dogfan's Church, Llanrhaeadr.

"Taking advantage of the splendid acoustics in the church several concerts are booked and there is a major exhibition planned for the August Bank Holiday," she said.

"Friends of St Silin's are reminded the monthly second Sunday Matins is at the later time of 10.30am and everyone is welcome to attend."

Macmillan group plans AGM date

OSWESTRY Macmillan Cancer Support has its annual meeting in the Friends Meeting House in Oak Street, Oswestry on February 26 at 7pm.

On March 5 there is a fundraising quiz in the Pedigree in Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, at 7.30pm. The cost is £10 for a team of up to four. Call Mrs Margery James on (01691) 650334.

Experts to speak out over need to protect hillfort site

EXPERTS in archaeology and British heritage are travelling to Oswestry to speak out for the town's Iron Age hillfort.

The free half day seminar, "In Defence of Old Oswestry", takes place on February 22 at Oswestry Memorial Hall followed by an exhibition in the afternoon.

Campaign group, HOOOH – Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort – is organising the event to highlight the archaeological and historical significance of the hillfort which is under threat of proposed development close to it.

by Sue Austin

Speakers include Dr Rachel Pope, director of fieldwork and senior lecturer in European prehistory at Liverpool University, who will be discussing how hillforts like Old Oswestry functioned in the Iron Age.

Joanna Caruth, of Rescue, the British Archaeological Trust, will explore the power of community and collaboration in protecting our historic environment while Dr George Nash, an archaeologist and specialist in prehistoric rock art, will reveal the story of the Pegasus Stone, one of the most recent artefacts uncovered within the surrounds of Old Oswestry.

Bearing the carved image of a horse, it is thought to be the handiwork of the hillfort's earlier Iron Age inhabitants and is unlike any other engraved art found in southern Britain of this period.

Petition

Shropshire Council's SAMDev plan includes proposals for three housing clusters called the Oldport Masterplan which would skirt close to the 3,000 year old hillfort.

The development has come under criticism from the heritage community while more than 8,000 people have signed a petition against it.

Mr John Waine, of HOOOH, said: "There has been a surge of registrations for this seminar reflecting the deep respect for and interest in Old Oswestry in the community.

"The programme of speakers also shows, once again, the high regard in which Old Oswestry is held by the academic community. We are all looking forward to a fascinating seminar."

Doors open at 9.15am for the seminar which runs from 10am to 1.30pm. Attendance is free, although organisers are asking for a £2 donation towards refreshments.

The exhibition, which will showcase the history of Old Oswestry and the campaign against development, is open to the public from 1.30pm to 5pm.

Seminar space is limited so early registration is essential at **oldoswestryhillfort.eventbrite.com** or by contacting Kate Clarke on (01691) 652918.

Care firm opening offices in town

A CARE firm which helps people remain in their own homes has celebrated 14 years in business with the opening of new offices in Church Street, Oswestry.

Staff at Allenby Douglas celebrated the opening of the new offices with town mayor, Councillor Chris Schofield, this week.

The company, owned by Jenny and Trevor Upshall, was founded in the name of Jenny's father who had served in WW2, was captured at Singapore and spent many years working on the infamous Burma Railway.

During the opening Councillor Schofield, said: "The business provides a wonderful support service to so many people in the community and I am sure that staff are proud to read feedback when service users highlight that they enjoyed care, treatment and support that met their needs and protected their rights.

"Much of the work the company does is out of the public eye, but I welcome them to Oswestry alongside their very important workers who are key to the quality of service that we all wish to see in our community."

Decision on CAB due next week

THE future of Powys Citizens Advice Bureau will be decided next week, before going to full council for rubber stamping the week after.

An informal meeting has been held between councillors and the cabinet.

Cllr Darren Mayor, said: "The council is facing a £20m shortfall in the coming financial year and a staggering £40m gap over three years following on a 4.5 per cent cut in overall funding from the Welsh Government."

Doctor warns that cuts could hit watchdog

PROPOSED cuts to the budget for operating community health councils across Wales could be so harsh that they could make it impossible to run the health watchdog covering Mid Wales, a doctor has warned.

The Montgomeryshire Health Council gets a share of a £3.9 million pot of cash from the Welsh Government. However, that money is to be cut and rural health councils, such as Montgomeryshire, have been told that they are likely to get a smaller amount in future.

Chief officers of the health councils will meet to look at a fairer system for sharing out the funding.

Mr David Adams from the Montgomeryshire CHC said the current system did not account for the vast distances involved in the work of CHC members who visit health providers not only in Powys but also across the English border in Shropshire and Hereford.

"Our members are all volunteers but they do have travelling expenses when they make the visits that are such a vital part of the work of the CHC," Mr Adams said.

"In Gwent in South Wales the CHC there deals with five different health providers, in Montgomeryshire we have 23."

Mr Adams said retaining contacts with places like the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal hospitals was hugely important.

"Something like 85 per cent of hospital care for patients in Montgomery is over the border in Shropshire," he said.

Sculpture sale helps heroes

Sculptor Alfie Bradley of The British Ironworks Centre at Oswestry with the lifesize statue of an injured soldier to be auctioned at The National Motorcycle Museum.

A LIFE- sized statue of a disabled special services soldier has been created by an Oswestry company and will be auctioned for charity tomorrow (Friday).

And following the auction the statue will go on display for two months at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The British Ironworks Centre created the statue of a disabled British special forces soldier injured in Afghanistan to raise funds for wounded soldiers.

The statue will be offered for auction for the fund at a black tie Valentine's Night ball organised by the national Pilgrims Bandits Charity at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

The Pilgrim Bandits was established by a small group of Special Forces veterans in 2007 with the sole aim of inspiring wounded soldiers to live life to the full.

Clive Knowles of British Ironworks, said: "The statue has been created, showing a British special services soldier with an artificial leg, by our sculptor Alfie Bradley. Soldiers are trained to use their disability to an advantage and the subject is using his false leg as a rifle support.

"We have offered the statue for display at the Imperial War Museum in London so whoever buys the statue will allow it to go on display for two months and it will also be made available for Shrewsbury Flower Show later this year."

Mr Bradley, the 23-year-old sculptor, moved to Oswestry after spending 20 years in France.

"It's taken me around two months to create the statue using sheets and rods of steel and I am very proud of the finished product," he said.

"We have no idea how much money we will raise but it's going to be a very exciting night and for a very deserving cause and we are pleased to be able to make this donation and honoured that it is to go on display at the War Museum."

Police in plea after two hurt in crash

POLICE are seeking witnesses to a road accident near Oswestry in which two men were injured when their car left the road.

The accident happened shortly before 7.30pm on Friday night along the B5069 St Martins to Overton Road when a green Citroen Xsara crashed into a hedge.

Both the driver and passenger were trapped in the badly damaged vehicle.

The 21-year-old driver was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with serious injuries.

His condition was described as stable. The passenger was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Police are appealing for witnesses who may have seen the accident or the car being driven beforehand.

Investigations into the circumstances are continuing and anyone who can assist should contact the police at Oswestry or Shrewsbury police stations on the non-emergency 101 number.

Clive is latest rotary recruit

A BUSINESSMAN has become the latest member of the Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club.

Clive Knowles, managing director of the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry, was welcomed to the group at a recent meeting.

Borderland Rotary meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel.

More information on the club can be found at **www.borderlandrotary.co.uk**

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Write stuff – care home's clients make new pen pals

RESIDENTS at a care home near Oswestry have been making new friends through a pen pal service.

The service has been set up at The Court care home, near Oswestry, run by Akari Care, which started the service between the care homes it runs throughout the UK.

Any residents interested in finding a new friend are being paired up from across the homes, giving them the chance to discuss their daily lives, events and their pasts with individuals who they would otherwise never have met.

by Pam Kingsley

One of the residents who has enjoyed the opportunity to write and receive letters is Esther Kendall, who lives at The Court in West Felton.

Mrs Kendall, 85, had always wanted a pen friend, and was eager to sign up when the scheme was launched.

She has now been paired with Diane Ward, who is a resident at Middleton Hall care home in Manchester, and the pair have begun to exchange letters.

Thrilled

Anna Prichard, manager at The Court, said: "Esther is thrilled with her new pen friend and enjoys hearing from someone from another Akari Care home.

"On a recent day trip, Esther bought some new writing sets and notelets for the enjoyable job in hand, which indicates how much this service means to her."

The service started just before Christmas and is open to all residents, with the home's activities co-ordinator offering to help residents who would have problems writing.

Mrs Prichard said:"It came from the report about vulnerable adults in the community who don't have people to talk to. It is important to participate in stimulating and enjoyable activities and the pen pal service has been a great success.

"We'd like to open it up and it would be good to open it up to the wider community, but then we'd have to get in to safeguarding practices."

Textile craft workshops at town library

TWO textile craft workshops were being held in Oswestry Library this week for people looking to learn a new skill.

Experimental textile artist Lynne Stein was at the library in Arthur Street on Tuesday to lead a rag rug workshop.

And on Saturday there will be an introductory hands-on workshop aimed to get you into sock knitting.

The Joy of Sox will take place from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and will cost £25. The session will be run by Alterknitive.

To find out more and to book a place contact Alterknitive on 07814 211974 or email Becca@alterknitive.co.uk

Men's Sheds expanding

Ken Baker and Hilbre Jones from Men's Sheds. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

A PROJECT to get older men to socialise together is sweeping the country and looking for a home in Oswestry.

Men's Sheds brings men together to share their skills and enjoy themselves while working on practical activities of their choice. And following the recent establishment of Men In Sheds In Shropshire (MISIS), plans are in place for an Oswestry branch – but a home is needed.

Hilbre Jones, 65, and Ken Baker, 69, both of Whittington, are behind the plans for an Oswestry branch.

"It's a place for members to be themselves, a place to exchange ideas and learn and a place for members to support each other and build friendships," said Mr Jones.

"But we need a base and hopefully some equipment to help us get off the ground."

Anyone able to help should email **hilbre.jones123@btinternet.com** or call 07821 357356.

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NEWS

AM speaks out on the shortage of homes

THE lack of housing in rural Wales is threatening the future of some communities, a Welsh Assembly member has said.

Shadow Housing Minister Mark Isherwood says he is concerned that not enough is being done to meet the housing needs of rural Wales.

After the Welsh Government refused to extend its 'Help to Buy Cymru' scheme to rural Wales, Mr Isherwood said that rural housing was key to the future of Wales yet there was a shortage of affordable homes in such areas.

He said the Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on Rural Housing in Wales found that a "seismic upward shift in provision was required to meet the need".

"The limited supply of housing and the difficulty of getting on to the property ladder is threatening the social and cultural sustainability of communities in rural Wales.

"We need more homes for rural economy workers to keep communities in the countryside viable, more retirement homes so that older people can pass on farm holdings to a younger generation and new homes for first-time buyers and for owner-occupiers wanting to downsize."

Designer's support plea to create £500k venue

AN Oswestry designer has called on residents and council chiefs to give their backing to create a new £500,000 performance venue in Oswestry – claiming it could kick start revitalisation of the town.

by Graham Breeze

Craig Marston, owner of Ke-design in Salop Road, has urged the council to support The Regal Project Group in their plans to convert the former Regal Cinema into a multi-purpose theatre, arts and performance venue.

Mr Marston, who has worked on regeneration projects in Leeds, London and Hong Kong, said the venue in Leg Street could be just what Oswestry needs.

He said: "The Regal Project is a fantastic idea. Oswestry is in much need of urban regeneration and a project like this would help kick start the revitalisation.

"The Government recognises cultural centres are important hubs of social interaction as well as providers of local jobs – and town centres should be a destination for socialising, culture, health, well-being, creativity and learning."

He added: "Oswestry is the second biggest town in Shropshire and is missing out on facilities like this that contribute to the economy.

"The town's nightlife is continuing to decline with residents having to travel to smaller towns in the county for cultured entertainment, sometimes as far away as Much Wenlock or Newtown."

The 39-year-old moved back to his home town four years ago to set up his architectural design studio.

He said the town is in need of investment to make it a better place to live, attract businesses and entertainment for residents and tourists. The Regal Project Group is hoping to make the dream a reality with money from the Arts Council and Lottery cash.

The Regal cinema closed in 1994 and is currently leased to the YMCA as a charity shop.

Other interested parties include leaders at Hope Church (formerly Carreg Llwyd Church), who want to turn it into a 300-seater auditorium for meetings.

Anybody interested in The Regal Project can email Craig at **info@ke-design.co.uk**

Designer Craig Marston is calling for backing to create a performance venue.

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

01691 668094

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

CALLS for the Government's foreign aid budget to be used to help thousands of British families hit by the worst flooding in living memory are unnecessary.

The media has been campaigning for cash to be diverted to some of those up to their knees in flood water but the Prime Minister admits we already have the money to deal with the crisis. BUT where has he been until now?

Calling for a "great national effort", Mr Cameron warned the flood crisis was likely to get worse before it gets better and has vowed that householders would each get "thousands of pounds" to help protect their properties.

He has pledged blank cheques for embattled councils to help deal with the floods, insisting that money was "no object in a wealthy country with a growing economy."

Well that's too little and too late from Mr Cameron with the Government and the Environment Agency pointing accusing fingers at one another as the blame row rages on.

The Environment Agency stands accused of cutting corners and not dredging rivers but weren't the budgets hacked by the Government?

The writing has been on the wall for some time now. Year after year the dangers worsened, yet we wait until the country becomes a disaster area before money becomes available.

It's no surprise to anyone that the lights suddenly came on in Westminster as soon as the Thames area started to experience the type of flooding being suffered in the West country.

It didn't take long for the suits to act and it was no surprise to find the troops immediately dispatched, yet it took weeks for them to appear in Somerset.

The reality is that action should have been taken to prepare for the type of weather that the experts have been predicting.

Where was all this water supposed to go?

❑❑❑❑

YOU can expect to see properties sprouting up all over Shropshire's countryside as the county council relaxes rules in a bid to hit house building targets.

Planning councillors, who say the rural character of Shropshire is changing, are having to grant applications because the county does not have five years of allocated building land and is having to follow the National Planning Policy Framework.

This week the north planning committee reluctantly granted permission for five housing developments all of them objected to by residents. These included 35 homes at West Felton and 10 bungalows in Morda.

Councillors have their hands tied because in Shropshire an amazing 7,000 planning permissions are in place for new homes that have still not been taken up.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital before modernisation.

Inside the new entrance at the hospital, near Oswestry.

Orthopaedic hospital is given clean bill of health

The Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has met all four standards of care set out by the Care Quality Commission. GRAHAM BREEZE reports.

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital has been given a clean bill of health for its care of patients after inspectors carried out an unannounced visit.

And the hospital has also been commended for its work by the organisation which regulates foundation trust hospitals.

Trust board members were told the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an unannounced inspection on November 13.

Wendy Farrington Chadd

The board was told the inspectors found the Gobowen-based hospital met all the four standards of care expected.

The inspectors looked at standards of care and treatment, the care and welfare of people who use the services, how the hospital safeguards people who use the services from abuse and also looked at staffing standards.

Meanwhile bosses at health sector regulators Monitor, whose role is to protect and promote the interest of patients, say they have not identified any concerns at the award-winning hospital.

Board members were told since the second quarter of the year, which began in June, Monitor's rating for the hospital has been reported with "green" for governance risk, which means that they have identified no issues of concern.

Inside The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

The hospital also received a positive score for its financial risk from the Monitor organisation.

The board was told that the financial risk was at level four, and that the maximum score for this is five, which has currently been achieved by only six per cent of the 145 NHS foundations trusts in total.

The hospital's chief executive Wendy Farrington Chadd said: "I am delighted with the results of the recent unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

Achievement

"On behalf of the board I would like to thank and congratulate staff on this fantastic achievement which clearly demonstrates that we are doing things right for patients."

The positive results from the most recent Monitor report comes just months after the regulator raised concerns over the hospital's failure to hit some care targets.

Monitor bosses said in July the hospital was missing some of its 18-week referral to treatment targets.

Bosses said the figures had been skewed because of the nature of the complex spinal surgery it carries out and said further work had now been carried out to get the figures back on track.

Using the new self check-in are patient Elfed Morris, from Langollen, Liz Reece, pre-operative assessment unit manager and Sue Wildman, volunteer help ambassador.

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago the charts started and this column will look back at this week, three, 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago

TEN YEARS AGO…2004

LMC vs U2 sold 69,000 copies of their single Take Me To The Clouds Above in the first week of its release. That proved to be good enough to see the record go in straight at number one and stay there for two weeks. The single knocked Pop Idol winner Michelle McManus off the top spot with her debut single All This TIme.

TWENTY YEARS AGO.. 1994

Catchphrases are always good for success in the music business. In 1994, D:Ream released their anthemic single Things Can Only Get Better which stayed at the top spot for four weeks. A few years later in 1997, Labour used the words (and the song) in their General Election campaign. They returned to power and the single made it to number 19. D:Ream (Peter Cunnah and Al Mackennzie) went on to have mixed chart success.

30 YEARS AGO…1984

The sensation of 1984 was Frankie Goes To Hollywood and their first number one single. Relax was banned by The BBC but stayed at the top for five weeks. Their name came from a newspaper headline about young Sinatra's entry into the music business. Vocalist Holly (christened William) Johnson had immense success with his band and two further number one singles followed this year.

40 YEARS AGO…1974

Rock'n'Roll band Mud had 14 singles in the top 20. Three went all the way to the top spot with their first, Tiger Feet staying at number one for four weeks. Five singles in 1974 stayed at number one for four weeks – two of them came from Mud, their other single being Lonely This Christmas.

50 YEARS AGO…1964

The Searchers, who took their name from the John Wayne film of the same name, had three number one records. Needles and Pins enjoyed three weeks at the top of the charts in 1964. Formed in 1960 they were once tipped to be as big as The Beatles.

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WILL MY CHILDREN'S WISHES BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF I SEEK A CONTACT ORDER?

Q: My wife and I have recently separated. Since the separation I have only seen our two young children once, but I have spoken to them frequently and they told me they want to spend more time with me but their mother won't let them. If I apply to court for a contact order, will the opinions of the children be taken into account?

A: Under the Children's Act 1989 the children's welfare is paramount and the court must take certain factors into account before making any decisions that will affect them. The court is required to pay particular attention to seven specific factors, to ensure that a consistent approach is taken in all cases. This is known as the 'welfare checklist' and the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the children (considered in light of their age and understanding) will be considered under the checklist. The Court can of course take any other relevant factors into account in reaching a decision, but the checklist is useful in understanding how the case will be considered by the court.

In relation to the wishes of the children, The Court of Appeal has said that there is no age below which a child is considered to have insufficient maturity for their views to be taken into account and there are a number of cases in which the court not only considered the wishes of the children, but also followed those wishes.

In the proceedings, a CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) officer may be appointed by the court to consider, amongst other things, the children's wishes and to prepare a (section 7) welfare report for the court. In other words your children's opinions will be sought and then presented to the court. CAFCASS will also have a duty to consider if either parent has influenced the children in their views.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Monaghan, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation

LETTERS

01691 668094

We can't take in more war refugees

IT appears that our Government in its very generous wisdom, after their discussions on Syria, is now to allow an undisclosed number of its refugees into Britain.

What does it take to make them understand that our country is already overcrowded? We have a massive housing shortage, and the new jobs being created are mostly part-time, and those in work full-time are overtaxed.

We have an ever increasing elderly population on pensions – also taxed. We are already giving away millions of pounds to other countries who do not need it as badly as we do. There is no money for the majority of public services, and we are all paying increasing utility bills.

I am truly sorry for people living in war-torn situations, and I am well aware that there are some pretty evil dictators in charge of these countries, and that, like America, we continually poke our noses into situations that are truly no concern of ours.

But we are making a rod for our own backs, without the finances to correct the messes that we continually leave behind us – all this when we are unable to support ourselves.

Why don't politicians wake up and try living in the real world. They take us into wars that don't concern us, allow illegal immigrants to stay at the taxpayer's expense, and attend expensive, meaningless meetings to discuss our futures, then give us their false smiles and tell us things are improving?

MARTIN EDDIES
Shrewsbury

Testing on animals doesn't work

PEOPLE who are considering contributing to the British Heart Foundation's forthcoming fundraising day deserve to know that their kind donations could be used to fund vivisection.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) funds research on animals, and the victims of this have included dogs, pigs and goats.

Yet for all the suffering it causes, animal research offers little hope of advancing medical progress, since fundamental differences between species mean that the results cannot be reliably applied to humans.

Dogs, for example, cannot develop heart disease by being fed a fatty diet, and rodents have a resting heart rate that is five times higher than in humans.

There are numerous non-animal methods of conducting research into heart disease, including the use of ethically-derived human cells, computer modelling, microfluidics and high resolution scanning.

The BHF needs to focus solely on such techniques, which – unlike animal experiments – are directly relevant to humans.

For more information, and to find out which charities fund animal experiments, please visit **www.victimsofcharity.org** or contact Animal Aid (01732 364 546 or **isobel@animalaid.co.uk**)

ISOBEL HUTCHINSON
Campaigner
Animal Aid

Thousands struggle to afford heating

THE recent forecasts of colder temperatures and snow warnings across the UK will no doubt bring increased concern to the thousands of people struggling with the costs of heating their homes.

As part of our fuel poverty campaign, we've been hearing stories from people up and down the country who are struggling to cope with their energy bills.

This is having a huge impact on their lives and they are desperately looking for help and support.

For example, we know of a father who is having to choose between heating his home and feeding his children, and a lady with disabilities is forced to stay in bed all day to keep warm.

These stories echo our recent research which found that over two-thirds (68 per cent) of people on low incomes have experienced stress trying to cover these costs, and over two-fifths (43 per cent) have been forced to cut back on food or skip meals. Over a fifth (22 per cent) have suffered ill health as a result of cold housing.

With the cost of living increasing, people feel they have no option but to borrow and cut back on essentials.

Therefore we are encouraging anyone in need to see if they can access support to help them close this gap.

We have created six steps, using our free tools and information, at **www.turn2us.org.uk/fuelpoverty**, to help people maximise their income and manage costs. Our Freephone helpline is available Monday to Friday 8am-8pm on 0808 802 2000.

We urge anyone struggling to see what help they might be able to get.

ALISON TAYLOR
Director of Turn2us

Beautiful village scene from days gone by

The little boys in the foreground are almost hidden amid the long grass in this general view of Oswestry which comes from an old postcard loaned by Mrs Diana Humphreys, of Maesbrook. It is undated but looks Edwardian.

Childhood memories of dark day

A FRIEND who is in her 90s told me of an unhappy memory from when she was eight years old. Having lost her mother, the family was visited by the authorities who told her father she and her two brothers would be taken to Australia.

We now know such children were taken there and used for slave labour. Fortunately her grandmother said she would rear them and my friend is only alive today because of her intervention.

At this time there was movement of people in Europe with children being shipped to Australia and Canada to make way for children fleeing from the Nazis, but we never hear about these dark days in our media.

RAY JONES
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX 01952 254605

E-MAIL letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Quarry site hotel would not aid town

DANIEL Kawczynski and friends wish to demolish the Quarry baths in Shrewsbury and build a hotel. I have no doubt that he has a large faceless international hotel company in mind which, if successful in their bid will leech even more money out of the county in profits.

The argument that yet another hotel will bring more money to Shrewsbury is flawed as I doubt that Shrewsbury is ever full, apart from during the Flower Show maybe and a new hotel will only put older ones out of business.

The Quarry is a public amenity for the good of the public and should remain so. If the baths are to go they should be replaced by something to benefit the public.

EWT PRICE
Alberbury

Politicians waste cash

POLITICIANS don't seem to care about how much taxpayers' money they waste.

For instance the badger cull cost between £40-50 million.

There was no need for it to have costed anything.

Just lift the ban and let the farmers continue to deal with it, this would save all that money.

None of the politicians think things through.

Roll on the next election.

JR CADWALLADER
Oswestry

Inviting Syrians will not benefit anyone

WHY are the majority of Government decisions bereft of logic and common sense?

There is a refugee problem caused by the Syrian conflict; only the USA has given more financial assistance than Britain but it is not good enough for some – we must accept some refugees. It is an ill-advised idea which benefits neither country.

The total area of Great Britain is around 95,000 square miles, and we have a population density of 238 per sq ml (1994). The population density is 105 per sq. ml in France.

It seems stupid to bring Syrian refugees thousands of miles to a country alien to them when they could so easily be absorbed in a climate they are used to with 175 million Sunni Muslims to take care of them.

BOB WYDELL, Oswestry

Why dismiss their view?

IN western society it is drummed into us that we are supposed to respect other peoples' beliefs. However, this is not the case with Russia and the Eastern Orthodox Church as the West promotes homosexual equality above other cultures.

Most Russians believe same sex relationships are sinful and therefore against the law. So what gives us the right to completely dismiss their culture and morality?

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Diners impressed by college chefs

Student Drew Morris in the kitchen preparing ravioli.

Helping to prepare the meal were Richard Sargeant, left, and Dale Notley.

Martin James, head of HR & community development at Shrewsbury Town FC, Hazel Wakefield, business project manager for the college, Keith Winter, chairman of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce and Andrew Tyley, principal and chief executive at the college.

Guests Gillian Richards, chairwoman of the Board of Governors, centre, with Val Schofield and Chris Schofield, Oswestry Mayor and Mayoress.

A NEW restaurant that has opened in Oswestry is producing chefs of the future as well as top quality meals.

But those behind Scholars say too few people know that the restaurant at the Oswestry campus of the Walford and North Shropshire college exists.

Once they do, they are keen to return to the

by Sue Austin

restaurant as two couples proved this week. Retired couples, Marion and Geoff Richardson, from Much Wenlock, and Florence and Gordon Smith, from Broseley Wood, made a 70-mile round trip to enjoy a three-course lunch at Scholars after Mrs Richardson had been to the restaurant with friends.

"It was so good I wanted my husband and our friends to enjoy it so we organised a trip," she said. The four said they were very impressed: "The food is excellent and the service very professional. It is a wonderful restaurant. It is very well presented."

Other diners, Mike Birch, 27, from Ellesmere, and Charlee Bickley, 17, from Wem, said they loved the restaurant.

"The vegetable soup was absolutely packed with veg," Charlee said.

Scholars was launched by the college to give the chef and hospitality diploma students the chance to try out their new-found skills on members of the public.

Chloe Mates and Georgia McElroy, both aged 16, and both from Oswestry, said they were really enjoying the experience.

"It really gives you more confidence," Chloe said. "I am really interested in front of house careers."

One of the projects for students is to design a pop-up restaurant.

"I am working on a burger theme with the restaurant called Smoky Chloe's," she said.

Chloe said: "I would love to get involved in confectionary and baking, perhaps open a business in the future."

Scholars is open at lunchtimes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with special themed evening such a French themed evening on March 11.

NEWS

01691 668094

Doctor's advice on avoiding norovirus

PEOPLE in the Oswestry area are being urged to follow a few simple steps to help them avoid the winter vomiting bug.

Norovirus causes vomiting and diarrhoea, is highly contagious and is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can affect people of all ages so health experts from NHS England in Shropshire are asking people to take care and help avoid the spread of the bug.

By making sure you wash your hands thoroughly, especially after using the toilet, will help to decrease your chances of becoming unwell.

Dr Ken Deacon, medical director for NHS England in Shropshire and Staffordshire, said: "Norovirus is not usually dangerous and most people make a full recovery within a couple of days without having to see their GP.

"If a child, or baby, gets norovirus it is very important to make sure they drink plenty of fluids."

Each year, some 600,000 to a million people in the UK catch norovirus. The illness is sometimes called the 'winter vomiting bug' because it's more common in winter.

NHS England has recently launched 'The earlier, the better' public awareness campaign, which is designed to encourage people to nip health problems in the bud and avoid unnecessary, stays in hospital.

Service held in memory of a well respected journalist

A CHURCH service to celebrate the life of a respected Oswestry journalist has been held in the town.

David Lawson died last month at the age of 34 after a brave battle against cancer. Colleagues, friends and family attended a service in his memory at St Oswald's Church in Oswestry last Friday.

After attending the Marches School and North Shropshire College, Mr Lawson, from Upper Brook Street in Oswestry, went to Loughborough University and studied publishing and IT. He then worked as a journalist for the *Border Counties Advertizer* in Oswestry.

by Iain St John

David Lawson

A talented athlete, Mr Lawson was a member of the Oswestry Olympians and ran the 200 metres for school, for the county and for Wales.

Many friends and colleagues from newspapers including the *Shropshire Star* attended the service.

After being diagnosed, Mr Lawson began a fundraising campaign to build a classroom in Kenya.

Despite fading health he and a group of friends walked to Rodney's Pillar on New Year's Eve as part of his fundraising efforts.

Classrooms

He had hoped to raised £3,000 with his trek to the top of the hill on the Breiddens.

But cash came in from all over the UK.

The fund currently stands at £10,833, enough for the Ellesmere based, Kenyan Schools Project to build two classrooms and help equip them.

Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright paid tribute to Mr Lawson.

He said: "I worked with David when I was editor at the *Oswestry and Border Counties Advertizer* and he was chief reporter. He was an excellent journalist and he became a good friend.

"His determination to help the Kenyan school project despite his own illness typified how kind and generous David was."

Report on stroke patients' health

CONSOLIDATING stroke treatment at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital has meant improvement in the outcome for patients across Shropshire and Mid Wales.

No stroke victims from mid Wales have been negatively affected by having to travel longer distances for treatment the Montgomeryshire Community Health Council was told last week.

In the past stroke services had been available at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital as well as at the Princess Royal.

They were temporarily moved to Telford due to a shortage of consultants in the summer, although stroke rehabilitation services remain at both sites.

The arrangement has been kept in place for now after hospital officials said it had resulted in better outcomes and recovery.

But more than 12,000 people signed a petition calling for stroke and accident and emergency services to stay in Shrewsbury over concerns about longer journey times.

Spreading the In Bloom news

Betty Gull, chairman of Oswestry in Bloom.

OSWESTRY-in-Bloom is spreading the word about its award-winning work by giving talks to clubs and groups.

The committee has helped Oswestry take gold medals the last nine Heart of England In Bloom competitions in the large town section.

The chairman, Betty Gull, said to win the award Oswestry had a dedicated band of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the town spick and span.

Now Miss Gull is hoping to spread the word about the work of the committee with a new presentation.

Recently she gave a talk to Maesbury Gardening Club and she is hoping other organisations looking for speakers would get in touch.

"We would like to impress on people that it is the responsibility of everyone in Oswestry to ensure the town looks good. And, who knows, the talks may even persuade some people to come forward and volunteer to be part of the committee."

Anyone interested can call Louise Humphries on (01691) 680222.

Hospitals to help during closure

WELSHPOOL Hospital will need to absorb extra patients during March as Llanidloes Hospital closes for major refurbishment.

There will be 10 fewer patient beds across north Powys for a month with the hospital's doors closed.

Montgomeryshire Community Health Council was told last week that patients that cannot be cared for at home or transferred to a nursing home will be moved into available beds at Welshpool and Machynlleth hospitals.

Llanidloes Hospital is due to close its in patient services on March 3 for a month, while contractors move in to deal with asbestos in the boiler room and renew the electrics and make other improvements.

Day patients including mothers to be will still be able to make appointments, Mr Jason Crowl, from Powys Teaching Health Board said.

"We have identified five beds at Welshpool and five at Machynlleth that would be available," Mr Crowl said.

"Because of the difficulties with distance to Machynlleth, we will be looking to transfer up to five patients, to Welshpool, all on the same day," he said.

"We will have a reduction of 10 beds across the area for the month of March."

NEWS in brief

Volunteers Day on at town hall

WELSHPOOL Town Council has a "Volunteers Day" on March 29.

Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to the Corn Exchange in the Town Hall, 9am-12noon.

"Volunteer groups will display their organisation's work to raise awareness and perhaps also funds for their causes," said a council spokesperson.

"It is also an ideal opportunity for anyone to come along and see how they can help by getting involved with voluntary work."

See **wtcouncil@btinternet.com**

Tidy-up events due to take place

WELSHPOOL Town Council has teamed up with Keep Wales Tidy to promote a Keep Welshpool Tidy Week.

The event starts on Saturday, March 15, and any groups wishing to get involved can call the council on (01938) 553412.

On Sunday, March 23, there is an event to clean-up of benches and signs from 10am to 3pm. Anyone interested should meet at the Tourist Information Centre.

Focus on history

A COFFEE morning is to be held tomorrow (Friday) in the Corn Exchange of Welshpool Town Hall to promote the town's history, from 9am to midday.

Man jailed after admitting sex acts with two schoolgirls

A MAN who befriended two schoolgirls and sent them lurid text messages before indulging in simulated sex acts with them has been jailed for two years and eight months.

Messages sent by Rishpal Makker to the two girls became more sexual over time until he took them to his house and abused them, Mold Crown Court was told.

Makker, 22, was placed on the sex offender register for 10 years. He had admitted a charge of taking part in sexual activity with the two girls at an earlier hearing.

by Graham Breeze

He was jailed, placed on the sex offenders' register and was also made the subject of a 10-year sexual offences prevention order (Sopo) which prevents him from being alone with girls under 16.

The crown court hearing was told that Makker had started regularly communicating with the girls by text message and that the texts had become more sexual in tone over time.

Makker had then taken the girls to his house in Church Street, Welshpool, where he simulated sex acts.

Distressed

One of the girls suffered an injury following the assault and the court was told the two victims had been left distressed and confused. This had, the hearing was told, added to their pre-existing vulnerabilities.

Mrs Anna Pope, prosecuting, said the matter came to light when one of the girls informed her mother what had gone on.

Mr Simon Rogers, for Makker, said his client had not gone out looking for underaged girls, but had taken advantage of a situation that presented itself to him.

Judge Niclas Parry said it was a very serious matter where Makker had taken advantage of the friendship of the girls.

He told Makker: "You knew that they were only 14. You were eight years older than them."

RAF bomber to give lecture

MORE than 30 years ago Martin Withers embarked on one of the most daring bombing raids in RAF history and now he's on the way to Welshpool to tell the tale.

Squadron Leader Withers and his crew flew almost 6,800 miles in an ageing Vulcan V-bomber from the Ascension Islands to the Falklands, several times refuelling in mid-air, before dropping their deadly 21,000lb of bombs on the Port Stanley airfield runway.

Today just one Vulcan, XH558, is maintained in flying condition and it starred in the 2013 Bob Jones Memorial Airshow at Welshpool and will again feature at this year's show on June 8.

The talk will take place on Saturday, April 12, at 7.30pm in Welshpool Town Hall. Tickets are available at £10 each from the Tourist Information Office, by calling (01938) 553142, or by emailing **town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk**

For more details please contact John Roberts on (01938) 810499.

Help in fighting hate crimes

Jayne Mitchell, right, handing the cheque to Dawn Gullis from Mencap Cymru.

THE ladies of Welshpool Golf Club have raised £250 for Mencap Cymru, the chosen charity for 2013 captain Jayne Mitchell.

She is pictured handing over the cheque to Dawn Gullis, external affairs office for Mencap Cymru, watched by fellow members. The money was raised through donations and will go towards a project that is challenging hate crime against people with learning disabilities.

MP vows he'll fight to retain PO service

MONTGOMERYSHIRE MP Glyn Davies has vowed to fight to keep Welshpool's post office open.

His promise comes after last week's shock news that One Stop, where the post office is currently housed, will be sold.

The MP has voiced residents' concerns with senior Post Office Ltd chiefs.

"I am in regular contact with the Post Office's senior stakeholder manager for Wales, who reassures me that the Post Office is committed to maintaining a service in Welshpool," said Mr Davies.

"It's vital that post office services are retained in Welshpool, which provides an integral service to many residents from the town and surrounding areas.

"It is also important that Welshpool Post Office remains located in an area which is convenient and easily accessible for everyone."

Last week the Post Office said: "We can confirm that One Stop have given us notice they are leaving the Welshpool premises.

"Customers should be assured that the Post Office is committed to maintaining a post office service in Welshpool and will work hard to ensure this. If this involves a relocation of the post office it would be subject to a full public consultation."

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WELSHPOOL NEWS

01691 668094

Move to get businesses to help provide services

by Graham Breeze

POWYS County Council is to drive ahead with proposals to get more Welshpool community groups, organisations, businesses and the town council to take on responsibility for services.

Welshpool Town Council has already adopted a number of public services in the town, but other organisations and businesses are also to be asked to consider helping as the county council seeks to make savings of £40million.

The council's cabinet is launching a new initiative to work with community groups and organisations to help them take responsibility for delivering some local services. Other communities in Montgomeryshire will also be approached.

"Local government is changing and some services that are currently provided by county councils will have to be delivered by others or may disappear altogether," said Leader Councillor Barry Thomas.

Resources

"But, to ensure that the services communities want to retain are preserved we have to work with them and make sure that they have the resources and information needed to maintain service delivery. We have seen with the recent discussions over public toilets that it is difficult for local organisations to take over responsibilities for services without a clear idea of what is involved.

"The current financial pressures mean we will be asking community councils, business groups and voluntary organisations to take on an even greater role. For them to succeed they need time to assess the financial and organisational implications.

"As a result we intend delaying full implementation of the toilet transfer initiative, the savings are still needed so those toilets already closed will remain closed and those discussions nearing a conclusion will be finalised."

Rising stars to perform

Pianist Yasmin Rowe and her cellist partner Yelian He will perform in Welshpool tonight.

WELSHPOOL Music Club has secured a performance from a brilliant young piano/cello duo for their next concert.

Y-Squared, featuring pianist Yasmin Rowe and her cellist partner Yelian He, are true rising stars in the international music world and will perform tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm in Welshpool Methodist Church.

British pianist, Yasmin, performs across the UK at venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, and St Martin-in-the-Fields. The evening promises to be a landmark in the club's mission to bring top quality musicians to Welshpool.

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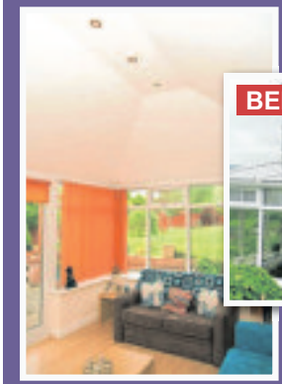

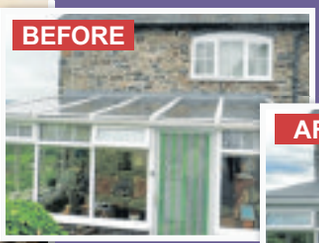

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RMI

NEWS in brief

Pupils celebrate Year of the Horse

PUPILS enjoyed horsing around in Birmingham's Chinese Quarter as they celebrated the Chinese Year of the Horse.

Pupils at Packwood Haugh School in Ruyton XI Towns enjoyed some Chinese snacks from the street stalls as well as face painting and getting their names translated into Chinese characters by Chinese calligraphy experts.

At the end of the afternoon's events they were treated to a lion dance and spectacular fireworks display.

Mandarin Chinese is taught after school at Packwood Haugh, and pupils can work towards taking the subject at their next schools to GCSE and even up to A-level.

Employment law update offered

LAW firm Lanyon Bowdler is offering a free employment law update seminar on March 27, at Wynnstay Hotel in Church Street, Oswestry.

The event will equip employers with a practical update on the latest developments affecting the workplace and employee relations, and also include guidance on dealing with sickness absences.

It is aimed at business owners and HR managers.

The seminar will start at 9am.

To book a place, contact Rachel Donaghey on email **rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk**

Singing sessions proving a lifeline for Marjorie, 98

A WEEKLY sing-a-long has proved a lifeline for a 98-year-old woman from Oswestry.

Marjorie Bird is registered blind and lives with advanced dementia, but singing therapy sessions offered by Red Cross volunteers appear to be helping to stimulate her memory.

The sessions are part of the Red Cross's home from hospital service, and Marjorie's daughter, Jean, said they have made a huge difference to her mother's state of mind.

by Pam Kingsley

Jean said: "Jill Reese-Jones, the Red Cross volunteer, came round each week for nearly two months, and she and mum would start belting out golden oldies with gusto – anything from *My Old Man's A Dustman* to *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles*.

Responsive

"The visits helped mum immensely because they stimulated her brain, making her much more responsive. After Jill called, she seemed to be on an adrenaline high, really alert and chatty."

The sessions helped so much that both Jean and visiting support workers have also started singing to encourage Marjorie to complete daily tasks.

Jean said: "When mum is confused or exhausted, we'll just sing out.

"She always joins in, and afterwards seems more grounded and able to respond to simple requests.

"It's so nice; you can see mum glowing with satisfaction when she's been able to do something independently.

"I'm so grateful to the Red Cross – and of course, the irrepressible Jill."

The home from hospital service is available to people who need a little extra help following a stay in hospital.

"This may be practical support such as collecting prescriptions, help with shopping or a lift to an appointment, but also companionship and confidence building.

Grace Cookson, service manager, said: "We're delighted Jill has helped Marjorie and her daughter. Something as simple as having someone to talk to – or sing with – can make a huge difference.

"The support of our volunteers can be vital in helping people readjust to life at home after a stay in hospital and support family members or carers."

Marjorie Bird, centre, is one of the people to benefit from the Home from Hospital service and is seen with her daughter Jean Fieldsend, left, and Home from Hospital Volunteer Jill Rees-Jones.

Children learning skills with languages

PUPILS from a secondary school in Oswestry have been helping younger children in the town to learn French.

Year 9 language leaders from The Marches School spent a day at Woodside Primary School teaching Year 3 and 4 pupils.

They took part in four different classes to teach the younger pupils to buy food at a French market stall.

Rosalind Powell, language teacher at The Marches School, said: "We had a very positive response from the children and teachers at Woodside and our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"The Marches students planned the entire session themselves, designing creative activities to assists pupils' learning.

"Visits to Morda and Trefonen Primary Schools are planned to teach pupils German and Spanish."

The scheme aims to develop pupils' leadership.

£2,000 raised

HOPE House Children's Hospice near Oswestry, and its sister site, T Gobaith, in Conwy, have received £2,000 between them.

The money was donated by Care Forum Wales, which represents 500 independent care providers.

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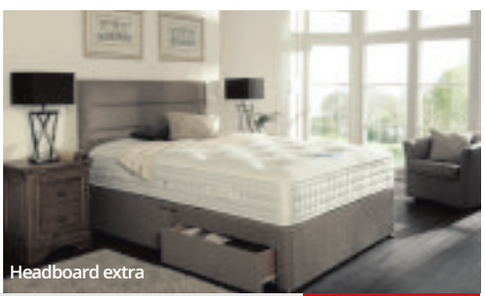

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Plea for crossings near site of school

A HEADTEACHER has called for new pedestrian crossings to be set up near his school amid fears speeding cars are putting pupils in danger.

Douglas Robb of the independent Oswestry School has proposed three sites for new crossings in the town to make the daily trip to school safer for youngsters, their parents and staff.

The idea was due to be discussed by members of Oswestry Town Council's development and planning committee last night.

The sites for crossings suggested by Mr Robb include Welsh Walls to cater for pupils and staff who walk between the senior school and Bellan House.

A second crossing is suggested for Church Street between the Wynnstay Hotel and Bellan House, and Mr Robb also wants a permanent pedestrian crossing outside the school gates across to the school's playing fields at Maes-Y-Llan.

Oswestry School has a main campus at Upper Brook Street and a junior campus at Bellan House in Church Street.

The school has an arrangement with the Wynnstay Hotel for parents to park there while they drop children off, leading to "a large number" of people crossing on school days with children as young as four.

Residents invited to put the police under scrutiny

POLICE in Powys dealt with 48 complaints about the force in the last three months of last year.

Now the Dyfed Powys force is looking for volunteers to scrutinise its complaints process and be part of a panel which will examine public complaint files and recommend improvements to the its system.

by Graham Breeze

It receives around 700 complaints every year on matters such as neglect of duty, oppressive conduct, incivility and lack of fairness.

From October–December last year there were 203 complaints received, including 48 in Powys and 46 at force HQ.

Trust

The Residents' Panel, being created by Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon, will consider a number of files four times a year.

Mr Salmon said: "The people of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys must trust the police; one way of building that trust is for the public themselves to scrutinise the complaints process.

"The volunteers I seek will be enthusiastic about improving policing. They will have communication skills, will be able to interpret detailed information and will have experience of reviewing or developing services, and evaluating performance.

"They will be eager to challenge and make balanced judgements."

Panel members will be over 18, preferably living in Dyfed-Powys and must not be, or have been, on a police force payroll.

After training, they will review randomly selected police complaint files and will consider whether, in their view, complaints were dealt with fairly.

The panel's brief may be broadened in future.

Panel meetings to discuss issues raised will take place at a time and place convenient to the volunteers.

This could include evening or weekend meetings.

Expenses will be paid to the volunteers.

More information is available on (01267) 226440 or **opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk**

Seniors celebrate Marjorie's 90th at lunch

Whittington Senior Citizens' Club held a special lunch to celebrate the 90th birthday of member Marjorie Morris. Marjorie, right, is seen with her daughter Julie McCabe, centre, and president of the club Frances Savage.

WHITTINGTON Senior Citizens held a birthday party for a member who helped keep the village club running for many years.

Marjorie Morris, from Whittingon, has been a former secretary and on the committee of the senior citizens club.

As a thank you, members held a party in honour of her 90th birthday.

She said she was delighted by the luncheon. A two-course meal was followed by a cake, created by Miss Sue Dyke and then entertainment including a sing-song with Derek Harrison on the keyboard.

Current club secretary, Mrs Gill Roberts said: "Marjorie was secretary prior to me talking on the mantle then served on the committee until a few years ago.

"We owe a great deal to Marjorie in keeping the club running."

The thriving senior citizens' club is based in its own headquarters on Station Road in Whittington. Recently the club linked up with Whittington Church of England Primary School as part of its luncheon club.

There will be a club lunch at the White Lion pub on February 25.

Line dancing classes are held at the club on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm until 3pm. The cost is £3.

Overseas students enjoy trip to county

A GROUP of 22 students from Holland swapped the windmills and dykes of the Netherlands for Shropshire's castles and canals last week.

The students from B.C. Broekhin in Roermond, in the south of Holland, spent a week at their partner school, The Marches in Oswestry

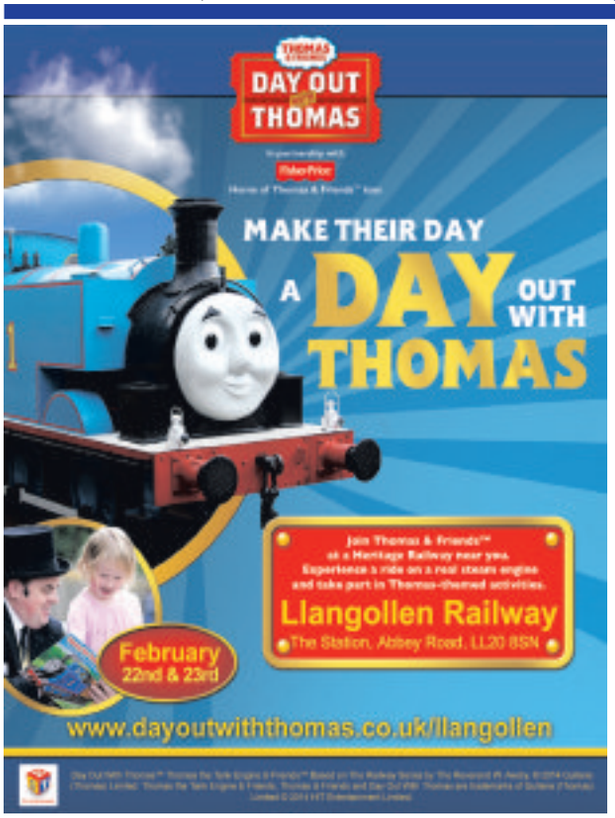
Each of the Dutch students were paired up with a student 'buddy' from The Marches to show them around and help answer any questions they may have about life in England.

During their visit to Oswestry, the students, aged between 12 and 15, took part in a range of activities, including going to lessons at the school in Morda Road accompanied by their 'buddies' and experiencing school life in the UK, as well as exploring the local area.

The group visited places of local interest as well, including Chirk Castle, Llangollen with its canal and steam railway, and had a recreational trip to Shrewsbury.

Helena Griffiths, international coordinator at The Marches School, said: "This is the second exchange with our Dutch partner school."

"Students who take part in the exchanges find it a thoroughly enjoyable experience."



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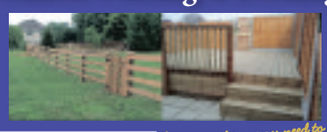
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MUNCHIES Diner in Oswestry is a well established café in Oswestry providing comfortable and welcoming surroundings for its many customers.

Located on the Maesbury Road Industrial Estate the diner was given a major refurbishment by current owner Steve Morris when he bought the business in 2010.

Advertisement feature

A dedicated team of staff ensure a friendly welcome is given to all who dine there on home-cooked food at affordable prices.

Choices range from all-day breakfasts, lunches, hot and cold snacks, sandwiches, homemade cakes and pasties. All appetites are catered for and there's a choice of regular, mega of monster breakfasts priced at £4.25, £5.25 and £6.75, all including tea, coffee and toast.

Choices of two-course lunches are available with tea or coffee at £5.95 and, where possible, local produce is used.

Munchies offer a free local delivery service for orders over £10 and customers can telephone orders for either pick-up or delivery.

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Losing weight could be made easy for you at Simply Lipo.

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Advertisement feature

Simply Lipo is a form of weight loss treatment designed to give you the body you want without the pain and cost of having surgery.

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For further details, contact Heather Thompson at Simply Lipo, Church Street, Oswestry, on 07973 881244.

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Venue to host second wedding fayre event

The Venue could be the perfect setting for your wedding.

THE Venue at Park Hall, home to The New Saints Football Club, will be showcasing its second wedding fayre on March 2.

The 2013 event proved to be a great success and 2014 has already drawn in a huge interest from those looking to tie the knot.

There will be 25 exhibitors including florists, photographers, dressmakers, beauticians, cakemakers, disc jockeys and transportation on hand to share their professional ideas and experiences on how to create that perfect day.

Advertisement feature

The highlight of the event will be at 11.45am when a fashion show takes place, allowing guests to take a glimpse of that dream wedding dress, suits and bridesmaid's dresses.

Hosting the event allows The Venue to support local businesses and deliver expert advice to the happy couples.

Admission is free with ample free parking spaces. The event is on Facebook – **www.facebook.com/thevenueatparkhall** – and Twitter – **twitter.com/gotothevenue** – keeping potential visitors updated with the events activities.

For further information please contact Georgie Johnson on (01691) 684 840 or email **Georgie.Johnson@gotothevenue.com**

Visit The Venue, Park Hall, Burma Road, Oswestry, SY11 4AS.

Visit: www.gotothevenue.com | Tel: 01691 684840

Wedding Fayre

The New Saints | The Venue

Sunday 2nd March 2014

Opening Time 11am - 3pm

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Swimmer wins big at pair of gala days

Michael Doyle

A YEAR 9 pupil from Oswestry School has been excelling in the swimming pool.

Michael Doyle recently competed in the City of Liverpool Winter Distance (Level 1) Long Course Meet where he improved in 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle and came third in the 13 and over 200m breaststroke.

At the Shrewsbury ASC Level 3 Open, he took three golds, four silvers and a bronze and was the winner of the 13s and under skins race.

At the end of the meet he was presented with the 13 years Top Boy Award.

Bernie Tudhope, school swimming coach, said: "Four personal bests from six events is excellent work.

"Skins is a very difficult race – instead of 'take your marks' followed by a whistle, the boys hear '10 seconds'. They then have to judge when to dive. After 10 seconds the whistle blasts and they race."

Harsher sentences for death drivers moves a step closer

A CAMPAIGN to change the law for the sentencing of driving offences following the death of a boy on the Shropshire border has taken a further step forward after a Parliamentary debate, an MP says.

A Bill was introduced by Clwyd South MP Susan Elan Jones in Parliament last month, prompted by the death of nine-year-old Robert Gaunt, of Overton.

Robert died after being knocked down by a car on the road near his home in 2009.

Wrexham man David James Lunn was the driver of the car which was involved in the collision with Robert. Lunn was unlicensed and uninsured but only served 10 months in jail.

by Iain St John

Miss Jones, Robert's family's local MP, is backing a campaign for more severe sentences for drivers involved in serious driving offences and held a back bench business debate on the issue in the House of Commons last Monday.

She said: "The debate was a very good and constructive one, with some very thoughtful speeches from MPs from different political parties.

"Ten months in jail for ending the life of a young boy is not right."

Justice

Miss Jones added: "The sentencing guidelines are terribly subjective and open to interpretation – and they hold back the judges from making the decisions that, in all justice, need to be made.

"The average sentence served by drivers who kill or seriously injure another human being – a mother, father or child – while driving is 11 months.

"If there is a need for legislation, I hope that the Government will bring it forward."

Miss Jones said she was pleased to hear the Government said it would look closely at the legislative framework relating to serious driving offences, and is considering whether the current maximum penalties reflect the seriousness of offending behaviour.

She added: "We are certainly not there yet with our campaign.

Police working with a college

A PARTNERSHIP between a Shropshire specialist college and a town's police team is proving a success, organisers have said.

For the past 12 months, Llangollen-based officers have been helping students at Derwen College, near Gobowen, learn about their role.

In return, police have gained a greater understanding of issues facing young people with learning disabilities and difficulties.

Four officers, including Inspector Siobhan Edwards and Sergeant Paul Hughes, made a reciprocal visit to the college where they met tutors and the students – some of whom have cerebral palsy, autism, Down's syndrome. Sergeant Hughes said: "The partnership has broadened our knowledge immensely. We've been able to put ourselves in the position of the young adults, and try to see things from their perspective.

"This has allowed us to fully appreciate the difficulties they may face when communication is often difficult for them."

Chance for some pampering

Libby and Sammi Spragg preparing for the Pamper Day at Walford and North Shropshire College.

STUDENTS came up with just the answer for anyone in Oswestry wanting a quick pamper before Valentine's Day.

Students at Walford and North Shropshire College from the hair and beauty and the catering departments joined forces to offer an all inclusive day of pampering last Tuesday.

At the college's Visage Salon the day started with a sauna and steam treatment followed by a full body massage.

They were then handed over to the catering students for a light lunch at the Scholars Restaurant before returning to the salon for a new hairstyle.

Sharon Cooper, head of commercial services at the college said it was the perfect treat for Valentine's Day.

"It was a nice opportunity to treat your loved one to a pamper session with lunch included. These pamper days have successfully run for seven years and clients enjoy the experience and become regular and loyal customers."

Motorists urged to obey rules for road

PEOPLE in St Martins are making yet another plea for motorists to obey road rules on a narrow lane – because they have been ignoring it for 35 years.

In what could be the county's longest-running highways headache, residents on Kimberley Lane in St Martins are making a further appeal to drivers not to come down the road as it has been an access only route for more than three decades.

Despite various previous pleas, police action and the installation of signs, drivers have consistently ignored the route rules, according to long time resident Dave Burkhill.

Mr Burkhill, 75, said: "None of the residents are getting any younger and most are in the eighties and all we want is drivers to obey the rules.

"There are signs clearly saying it is access only but motorists just keep coming along it because it is a more convenient way to get to the nearby industrial estate.

"The drivers are hardly saving themselves any journey time but they prefer to come down the lane rather than going on a bit further to a mini-roundabout."

He said: "The police have put out letters telling people it is access only and the parish and county councils have been contacted but the drivers just won't listen."

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Live the rural dream at delightful smallholding

The sale of Rhoswaendeg at Cross Houses, St Martins, near Oswestry, presents a rare opportunity to purchase a residential smallholding including a three/four bedroom cottage, stables and outbuildings in around 1.14 acres of secluded gardens and paddocks.

In a magnificent rural setting, it is on sale with Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000.

The cottage has been sympathetically extended to create a spacious family home yet with potential for further development. There are kitchen gardens, a stable, paddock, double garage and outbuildings which have a host of future uses.

The accommodation comprises a boot room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, living room with multi-fuel burner, study, dining room, sun room, four bedrooms, bedroom four/dressing room, a double garage, workshop, shed, a paddock, timber stable block, tack room, storage shed and a loose box. Next to the cottage is a garden and orchard area extending to just under a third of an acre. There is also a gated concrete yard providing ample parking.

For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit the website www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Smart country bungalow offers space and comfort

On the market at a guide price of £190,000, number 8 Mount View is a beautifully presented detached bungalow on a small rural development with pleasant gardens to front and rear .The double-glazed, centrally heated accommodation is well laid out and comprises a porch, living/dining room and kitchen.

A door from the living area leads into an inner hall which gives access to three bedrooms, a conservatory and family bathroom.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552 to arrange a viewing.

Development opportunity going under the hammer

An interesting Grade ll listed detached stone property with the potential to be divided into three houses is to go under the hammer later this month.

Castle Buildings at Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant has a total of 11 bedrooms with three doors to the front, and retains many original features.

The vendor says the property was re-roofed and re-pointed about 10 years ago but the building requires extensive repair and renovation.

The agents have set a guide price of £100,000, with the auction due to take place on February 20. Call Town & Country on 01691679631 to find out more.

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RICS

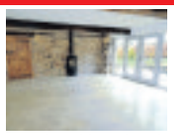
NEW

Henley Drive, Oswestry — £184,995

- An immaculately presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Cloals, Lounge, Dining Rm, Kitchen, Utility, Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms (master bedroom en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Driveway providing ample off-road parking and single integral garage
- Gas C/H, D/G, uPVC fascias & soffits & enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating

COED Y Go, Nr Oswestry — £350,000

NEW - NO CHAIN



- This beautifully presented and luxuriously appointed 4 bedroom barn conversion has been finished to the highest of standards
- Set in an elevated position offering excellent views over open countryside yet within easy reach of the market town of Oswestry
- The development also achieved a Highly commended award at the Oswestry & District Civic Society Building Awards 2013. EPC Rating C

NEW - NO CHAIN

Churchfields, St Martins — £164,950

- A spacious and well proportioned 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Reception Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Gallery Landing, 3 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Bathroom.
- Off-road parking for several vehicles, single garage & good size rear garden
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating C

NEW

Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry — £124,995

- An immaculate and spacious Semi-Detached House
- Situated in a popular modern estate, convenient to town facilities
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Two Excellent Bedrooms, Bathrm
- Enclosed rear garden with decked sun patio, parking to the fore
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

NEW

Bay Tree Close, St Martins — £116,995

- A comfortably appointed and well positioned Semi-Detached House
- Situated in a quiet, short cul-de-sac near the centre of the village
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Sun Rm, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Delightful gardens to fore and rear, ample parking for several vehicles
- Majority double glazing, Gas C/H, cavity wall insulation, EPC Rating C

NEW

Applewood heights, West Felton — £69,995

- An immaculately presented 1 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Situated within a quiet residential location in the popular village of West Felton
- The property is well presented throughout
- Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom & recently fitted Bathroom
- Garden, allocated parking area and D/G throughout. EPC Rating E
- The property should be of interest to 1st time buyers and investors

NO CHAIN - NEW PRICE

Cambrian Avenue, Whittington — £145,000

- A most delightful spacious and extended Semi-Detached House
- Sitting Room, Snug, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Delightful gardens to the fore with ample parking for several cars
- Fully enclosed south facing rear garden and with views
- Gas fired central heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN

Carreghofa, Llanymynech — £220,000

- A spacious Detached Bungalow
- Set within a large plot and having outstanding views to rear
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Conservatory, Dining Rm
- Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Shower Rm/Utility, 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- D/G, Oil C/H, low maintenance PVC fascias and soffit's
- Single garage, delightful gardens with ample parking. EPC Rating E

Barber Close, Oswestry — £174,995

- Well appointed & deceptively spacious 4/5 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility Room, Study/Bedroom 5, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom with 2 further large Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- A paved patio area to the rear and a lawned garden to the side
- Single garage and driveway, Gas C/H & uPVC D/G. EPC Rating B

Rectory Terrace, Welsh Frankton — £150,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating E

Cae Onan, Morda — £206,995

- A spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloak Room
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, integral garage & ample off-road parking
- Gas C/H, and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C

Morda Close, Oswestry — £465,000

- An Executive Family Home situated on the exclusive Morda Close development
- Entrance Hall with Lounge, Dining Room, large Kitchen/Breakfast Room with adjoining Utility Room and Cloaks
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite & Guest Bedroom with En-Suite.
- 2 Bedrooms & Study and a large Family Bathroom
- Large private landscaped gardens. Ample parking and Double Garage block with room above which could be utilized for a number of uses. EPC Rating C

Watkin Drive, Oswestry — £395,000

- A most impressive and spacious Detached House set within an exclusive and spacious development for only five executive homes
- Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Sitting Rm with bay, Large Conservatory
- Separate Dining Rm, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Gallery Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Rm & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens, double garage. EPC Rating D

Brynhafod Drive, Oswestry — £375,000

- A most comfortably appointed Detached Four Bedroom Property with Annex, set in one of the premier locations in the town
- Hall, Lounge, "L" shaped Dining Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Balcony Rm, Master Bedrm, 2 further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathrm
- Annex with Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Dining Room, Bedroom & Shower Rm
- Majority D/G, Gas C/H, Dble garage, large store area, wine room & garden rm
- Lawned and terraced gardens with wide driveway to fore, spacious garden with borders to rear. EPC Rating D

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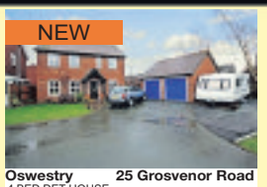
NEW



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DOUBLE GARAGE
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
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Selattyn **Fir Bank**
4 BED DET HOUSE
SPLIT LEVEL PROPERTY
OIL CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
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NEW PRICE

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EPC RATING E
OIRO £249,950

Gobowen **Avalon**
3 BED DORMA BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING F
OIRO £229,950

Oswestry **1 Old Mill Avenue**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
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EPC RATING C
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Welshampton **The Knowles**
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
KITCHEN/ DINER
SOUTH FACING GARDEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £219,950

Oswestry **85 Cabin Lane**
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £214,950

Maesbury Marsh **Oakdene**
3 BED DORMA BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OIRO £214,950

Morda **16 Sweeney Drive**
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £199,950

Oswestry **40 Park Avenue**
SOLD IN 24 HOURS
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING TBC
£189,950

WANTED NOW!
4 BED DETACHED HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£250,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

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3 BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£160,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

Oswestry **55 Henley Drive**
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £169,995

Llanymynech **Larchfield**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
SUPERB VIEWS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £169,950

NEW

Pant **Rachie**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GARAGE
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
£162,950

Oswestry **62 Whitefriars**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £157,950

WANTED NOW!
2 BED BUNGALOWS AND HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£130,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

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HOUSES IN
OSWESTRY AND
SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR WAITING APPLICANTS
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FOR MORE DETAILS

Oswestry **12 Beresford Gardens**
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING C
OIRO £154,950

Oswestry **3 Henry Jones Road**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £154,950

Oswestry **35 Gatacre Road**
3 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £149,950

NEW PRICE

Oswestry **15 Cae Melin Avenue**
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
LOUNGE/DINER
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £147,950

Llanfyllin **14 Bron Y Gaer**
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £139,950

St Martins **10 Moors Bank**
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £137,950

NEW PRICE

Oswestry **63 Smale Rise**
2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £124,950

NEW PRICE

Oswestry **4 Stewart Road**
3 BED TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £119,950

NEW

Oswestry **40 Ascot Road**
2 BED TERRACCED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING B
ASKING PRICE £117,500

NEW

Oswestry **2 Maple Avenue**
2 BED END TERRACE
NO CHAIN
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £112,500

Oswestry **3 Abraham Court**
1 BED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING C
COMMUNAL GARDEN
OIRO £84,950

Oswestry **9 Upper Lord Street**
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £84,950

LETTINGS

TREDERWEN COTTAGE, LLANSANTFFRAID.
1 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..... £260 PCM
49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT ..... £300 PCM
23 YORK STREET. OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..... £450 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, WEST FELTON. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..... £450 PCM
8 KING STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..... £450 PCM
47 ABRAHAM COURT, OSWESTRY. 1 BED APARTMENT ..... £470 PCM
3 SYCAMORE CLOSE, ST MARTINS. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE ..... £500 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED SEMI DET HOUSE ..... £525 PCM
1 BEDFORD VILLAS, WHITTINGTON. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE ..... £595 PCM
11 MANDIR CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE ..... £595 PCM

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Halls 1845

NEW

Arguably, enjoying the most imposing position within this most sought after location and situated at the head of a quiet cul de sac. Offering spacious and adaptable accommodation and set in a generous sized plot with woodland to the boundary. This property has been well looked after by the current owners and the accommodation is immaculate. Current EPC Rating C.

Woodlands Park, Oswestry
Price: £399,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

Situated in a quiet cul de sac location this four bedroom family home needs to be viewed to be appreciated. The property sits centrally within a good size plot with mature gardens, double garage and ample parking.

- Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility
- Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Storage, Parking
- Double Garage, Mature Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C

Kingsbury, Schhol Lane, St Martins
Price: £295,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW

A well presented five bedroom detached family home situated in a most poplar semi rural location. This property could provide a family home with a one bedroom annex or a substantial family residence. (Lower Landing Accommodation could provide self contained accommodation (subject to permissions).

- Five Bedrooms
- Current EPC Rating D

Gibraltar Lane, Treflach
Price: £330,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A unique opportunity to purchase a COTTAGE with ANNEXE and LARGE WORKSHOP. Situated in a most convenient semi rural within a short drive from the A5 this property must be viewed to appreciate its full potential.

- Dining Room, Living Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom, Gardens
- Parking, Turning Forecourt
- Large 31ft long Workshop
- Self Contained Annexe

Wootton Cottages, Queenshead
Price: £285,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This immaculate executive detached family home offers spacious accommodation and is decorated at a high standard and fitted to a high specification.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Landscaped Gardens
- Views Of Breidden Hills & Llanymynech Hill
- Current EPC Rating D

2 Brydges Gate, Llandrinio
Price: £375,000
Contact Shrewsbury

NEW NO CHAIN

This two double bedroom end of terrace cottage is tucked away within this popular village, only a short walk from the bus stop and village amenities. UPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating.

- Two Reception Rooms
- Master Bedroom & Ensuite
- Bedroom Two, Shower Room
- Two Parking, Garden
- Current EPC Rating D

Vine Cottages, Weston Rhyn
Price: £135,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

An immaculate executive style family home overlooking parkland situated in a quiet residential area.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- Gardens & Summer House
- NHBC Guarantee
- Current EPC Rating C

Kingfisher Way, Morda
Price: £299,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW

A detached family home located in a most picturesque rural location near to the small village of Llanfihangel. This property benefits from superb views of the surrounding rolling countryside which is a notable feature.

- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, WC/Utility
- Four Bedrooms
- Approx. 2.25 acres
- 2 acres by separate negotiation
- Current EPC Rating F

Llanfiangel, Powys
Price: £330,000
Contact Oswestry

This first floor three bedroom apartment benefits from views to the Castle Ruins, across the playing fields and to the Church in the distance

- 3 Bedroom Apartment
- Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Village Location
- Garden
- Current EPC Rating D

Birch Grove, Ruyton XI Towns
Price: £92,500
Contact Oswestry

This charming semi detached cottage benefits from superb open views across farmland and to the Breidden Hills and boasts lovely gardens.

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Church Cottages, Four Crosses
Price: £171,500
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

This three storey THREE bedroom end of terrace town house is situated within a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre offering immaculate accommodation fitted to a high specification including good quality 'Quick Step' laminate flooring throughout the ground floor.

- R'Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom Two, Family Bathroom
- Bedroom Three, Master Suite
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Parking
- Available with No Chain
- Ideal Investment

Cambrian Mews, Oswestry
Price: £147,500
Contact Oswestry

A three bedroom character property situated in a sought after hamlet location in close proximity to both Weston Rhyn and Selattyn.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Receptions
- Garden & Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- Countryside Views
- Current EPC Rating E

Wren Cottage, Wern
Price: £234,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A rare opportunity to purchase a three bedroom detached house with parking and garden located near to Oswestry Town Centre. This property benefits from UPVC double glazing and is available for sale with NO CHAIN.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms Bathroom, Parking
- Gardens to Front & Rear.
- Short Walk to Town

Chapel Street, Oswestry
Price: £135,000
Contact Oswestry

This deceptively spacious detached cottage dates back to the 1700's and offers spacious accommodation and benefits from a half acre plot.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- 3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Easy Access To A483
- Oil Central Heating
- Gardens & Parking
- Current EPC Rating F

The Poplars, Porthywaen
Price: Offers in Region of £249,950
Contact Oswestry

This beautifully presented three bedroom cottage bungalow has the most wonderful views across the Ceiriog Valley. Located in the picturesque village of Pantfadog which provides a post office, local shops and a river running through.

- Thee Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Parking & Garage
- Current EPC Rating E

Glas Coed, Pontfadog
Price: £249,950
Contact Oswestry

A unique four bedroom detached equestrian family home with three bedroom detached bungalow/annexe set in excess of 9 acres and featuring a range of useful outbuildings, stabling, workshops, garaging and barn.

- Country Lane Position
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Set In Excess Of 9 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

The Slades, West Felton
Price: Offers over £799,950
Contact Oswestry

This 1926 former farmhouse offers spacious and adaptable accommodation.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Cloakroom, Sitting Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Inner Hallway, Large, Pantry
- Utility/Laundry Room
- Four double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom, Shower Room
- Garage, Parking, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Llanymynech, Powys
Price: £295,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This three bedroom detached cottage is situated down a quiet country lane close to the village of Llanrhaeadr and only 11 miles from Oswestry.

- 3 Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Dating Back To Approx 1850
- Original Features & Oil CH
- OPEN DAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013
- Current EPC Rating E

Cefn Glaniwrch Cottage, Llanrhaeadr
Price: £219,950
Contact Oswestry

Head Office	01743 450700	Shrewsbury Auction Centre	01743 462620	Shrewsbury	01743 236444
Bishops Castle	01588 638755	Ellesmere	01691 622602	Oswestry	01691 670320
Kidderminster	01562 820880	Welshpool	01938 555552	Whitchurch	01948 663230

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Bettws Cedewain | Newtown

A four bedroom semi-detached barn conversion situated in the market town of Newtown with stunning views of the Highgate valley
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Double carport parking | Garden | Furnished / Unfurnished | EPC rating C

Rent £675 *
Lettings 01743 284204

Belgrave Cottage | Ellesmere NEW

A recently renovated three bedroom semi-detached property with far reaching views of the Ellesmere countryside
Entrance hall | Sitting room | Kitchen/diner | Pantry | 3 Bedrooms
Family bathroom | Garden | EPC rating D

Rent £625 *
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TIPS OF THE WEEK

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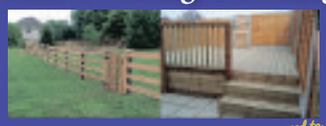

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Local Specialists

TIPS OF THE WEEK

SUCH is the reputation that McDonald Landrover has built up at Oswestry that the company now offers services to owners of other makes of 4x4. New, fully trained staff have been recruited as the business expands to accommodate an increased demand to cater for all 4x4 brands. -We have taken on new staff who are experienced and trained on other makes and we have invested in the very best diagnostic equipment," said Rupert Astbury, at the Mile Oak Industrial Estate site. The business was purchased in 2001 as a small parts supply operation and moved to the current larger premises in 2002, opening the workshop with one mechanic. The business now has five people in the workshop, three on parts and one in the office. Parts stockholding is over £100,000 and any part that is not on the shelf can be obtained for the next day. McDonald Landrover also has a thriving website shop and are aiming to have the ability for customers to book cars into the workshop online later this year. The workshop staff have a wealth of experience backed up by the latest vehicle-specific diagnostic equipment, meaning any problem on any Land Rover from 1948 to the present day can be worked on. Servicing is undertaken using genuine Land Rover service parts ensuring that all vehicles still within their warranty period receive the correct work. -We are looking forward to 2012 being our best yet," said Rupert. -We have a very strong team, excellent work ethic and a determination to give the customer value for money," he added. When it comes to Land Rover servicing there is nobody better than McDonald Landrover, specialising in the maintenance of all Land Rover makes and models. The company has built up a solid client base in the Shropshire area over a number of years with a reputation for servicing of the highest quality.

Contact McDonald Landrover at Mile Oak Industrial Estate Maesbury

Road, Oswestry, on 01691 657705.

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deaths

BARNES

Thomas Barry

(Barney)

Passed away peacefully on February 4, 2014.

Much loved Husband of Dorothy, dearly loved Dad of Jane and the late John and loving Grandad of Luke and Jade.

Funeral Service at West Felton Methodist Chapel, on Wednesday, February 19, at 12 noon, followed by Cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham, at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The Midlands Air Ambulance and West Felton Methodist Chapel.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

CORKINDALE

Valerie

nee Leigh

Aged 68.

Died peacefully at her home in Nieuw Vennep, Holland, on Friday, February 7, 2014.

Formerly of Gobowen.

Loving Sister to Patricia, the late Irene, Veronica, Richard, Joyce, Sandra and Terry.

Sadly missed.

DAVIES

Beryl Kathleen

Passed away peacefully on February 4, 2014, aged 88 years.

Dearly loved Wife of the late Dilwyn Davies.

Will be sadly missed.

Funeral Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Selattyn on Tuesday, February 18, at 10.30am, followed by Interment at Hengoed Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Alzheimer's Society.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

EDGE

Tony

Passed away at home on January 30, 2014, aged 83 years.

Much loved Husband of Rosemary, loving Dad of Deborah and Father-in-law of Andrew.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, February 18, at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

SWANNICK

Edward Geoffrey

(Geoff)

Of West Felton, on February 6, 2014, suddenly at home, aged 73 years.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Inquiries please to

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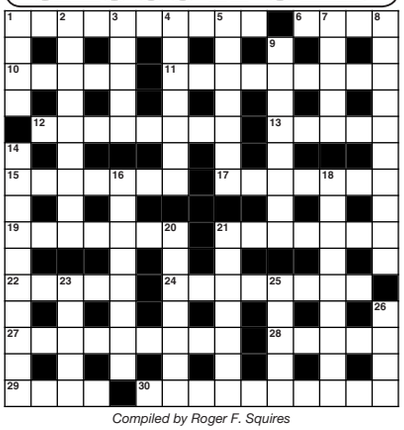

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Couldn't find reasons for unsuccessful campaigns (4,6)
6 Animal seen when the sea has left (4)
10 Spritely number in fine disarray (5)
11 One of the signs that motorists have to go on (2,7)
12 Out-of-this-world advertising agent (8)
13 What, around the East, may be made into bread (5)
15 Regulated as instructed (7)
17 Short cut from the beach (7)
19 Sedentary crossbowman? (7)
21 Take a side turning, perhaps (7)
22 Forger's block (5)
24 Pays heed to details (8)
27 Turning out a bad citizen perhaps (9)
28 They're used for recording bands (5)
29 Uneven chances? (4)
30 Spent in riotous living (10)

DOWN

1 Growth seen when a ship's bottom is turned over (4)
2 It brings down the tone when depressed (4,5)
3 He finds fault in fancy nicknames (5)
4 Anonymous male making a come-back in nude variety (7)
5 Expresses at even greater length? (7)
7 Banish to a former French island (5)
8 Lines not intended to be taken seriously? (5,5)
9 Victorian poet getting sunburnt (8)
14 Precarious way to establish a momentary contact (5,3,2)
16 Mocking bird with tips of tail blue or grey (8)
18 Deteriorates and becomes a drug-taker (4,2,3)
20 Ends an interin arrangement (7)
21 Draughtsman's intentions? (7)
23 Flat a number possibly paid for (5)
25 Legally prevent some of the best operators (5)
26 Accustomed to being employed (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Jester, 4 Operates, 9 Canine, 10 Escargot, 12 Plus, 13 Scoop, 14 Seer, 17 To all intents, 20 Housebreaker, 23 Also, 24 Tipsy, 25 Stag, 28 Presents, 29 Berlin, 30 Tapestry, 31 Jousts.

Down: 1 Jackpots, 2 Singular, 3 Edna, 5 Past one's best, 6 Real, 7 Tagged, 8 Satyrs, 11 Sceneshifter, 15 Allot, 16 Steel, 18 Skittles, 19 Brigands, 21 Carpet, 22 Asleep, 26 Tees, 27 Nero.

Violent storms taking their toll on Green Man sculpture

THE pounding rain, strong winds and violent storms which have struck the county during the past week have all taken their toll on The Green Man.

The sculpture, which stands in the grounds of the Sweeney Hall Hotel, on the A483 just outside Oswestry, was created in April 2007 by chainsaw sculptor Andy Hancock.

He came over from his home in Texas and spent five days carving a face into a dead horse chestnut tree.

by Pam Kingsley

The artist, who specialises in working on both fallen and standing dead trees, painted the face green and made two of its branches into arms – one of which appeared to be holding a giant conker.

Back then, the tree was so strong that Mr Hancock would sit on one of its branches.

However, following the recent bad weather – and constant exposure to the elements – both of the Green Man's arms have fallen off, leaving just the trunk and what remains of the Green Man's face.

But the artist remained positive, despite the Green Man's obvious ill-health.

"There is no doubt that the work has had a good run," he said from his home in the US, "even surviving a malicious attack by fire and the great British weather.

"But things must come to an end."

Mr Hancock suggested the remaining tree could be cut back and used as a plinth for a more resilient artwork.

"I would love to do another," he added, "but the money just doesn't seem to be around to create such things."

Among his other works, Australian-born Mr Hancock created a water sculpture outside the Powysland Museum in Welshpool.

He said: "The green man was conceived, like a lot of my work, through opportunity being the mother of invention.

"I had quite a number of calls the day following the tree's initial damage from a storm when the entire top broke off. Horse chestnut trees are lucky to survive into really old age as they are not resilient to weather and disease and this one had gone the way of many.

"When I saw the tree I saw a face that was trying to be ferocious but had a smile underneath – an old man of the forest."

BEFORE: The Green Man stands proud and supports sculptor Andy Hancock. Now it is a shadow of its former self.

Popular show to get extra screening

AN Oswestry cinema group is putting on an extra screening of the National Theatre's production of *War Horse* due to public demand.

Kinoculture Cinema's first two scheduled screenings of the show, part of the town's literary festival, sold out within a week.

Organisers have now arranged for a further screening to meet demand at The Attfield Theatre in The Guildhall on March 25 at 7pm.

Ruth Carter from the Kinokulture group, said: "Tickets will go on sale on February 14.

"Advance booking is advised as the first two screenings sold out.

"Tickets for this screening event cost £12 for adults and £10 for under 16s."

Tickets can be booked by calling the kinokulture cinema box office on 0845 2500517 or **info@kinokulture.org.uk**

The screenings are just one feature included in Oswestry LitFest.

Among the other events will be the inaugural Wilfred Owen Lecture, by former BBC correspondent and MP Martin Bell, on Wilfred Owen's birthday, March 18, in Holy Trinity Church in Oswestry, where both he, and his mother, were christened. Tickets are available from Booka Bookshop or online at Eventbrite.

Villagers' call for a bypass to air on TV

RESIDENTS involved in one of Shropshire's longest-running road safety campaigns say they hope their battle being featured on TV will help their cause.

Campaigners have been calling for a bypass around the villages of Pant and Llanymynech, near Oswestry, for nearly 20 years.

They say the thousands of vehicles which use the A483 and come through their communities on a daily basis pose a constant safety problem.

The campaign to have a bypass around the villages of Pant and Llanymynech was featured on ITV Wales show Sharp End.

Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council chairman Cllr Dilys Gaskill appeared on the show alongside campaigner Mike Catt.

Mrs Gaskill said: "The issue has been going on for a while but it all adds to keeping the campaign's profile up.

"It shows we are still trying and we are still around and the issue has not gone away.

"We will keep working together with our representatives in Shropshire and over in Mid Wales to bring the improvements."

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Source: ABC

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MNA Media

Company to invest in cheese factory

AN Oswestry cheese packing factory is set to open two new lines as part of a £9 million investment by dairy firm Arla.

The company plans to build two high-speed packing lines at its Oswestry factory as it pushes its Anchor Cheddar brand.

Arla spokeswoman Lisa Attenborough said the new lines were in the planning stages at the moment and no details had been finalised yet.

She said: "The investment in Oswestry is for two high-speed packing lines.

"This is based on orders already placed and also to specifically support the roll out of Anchor Cheddar.

"This investment reflects our commitment to developing a cheese business for the future."

It is hoped the new packing lines in Oswestry will help improve sales of Anchor Cheddar. The brand was resurrected in April last year after a four-year absence from the supermarket shelves.

Arla is targeting £50m in sales for the brand by the end of 2014, and hopes to achieve up to £100m in 2017.

The two new Oswestry packing lines are part of a wider investment of £243m across Arla's global operations.

Unearthing club's roots

by Toby Neal

OSWESTRY Town Football Club, one of the oldest football clubs in the world, with roots going back to 1860.

It is a claim which used to be made in the club programme and on its products, and is still made by various sources, which trace the Town's origins to the formation of Oswestry United in that year.

But if researcher and historian Mike Clarke is right, the claim is wrong and those histories will have to be rewritten.

"My records show United was formed in 1893, not 1860 as is often quoted. United came into being after the demise of Oswestry FC, who where founded in September 1875 and disbanded in the 1891/2 season," Mike says.

Loaned

Mike got in touch after we published a photo of the Oswestry United team which won the Welsh Cup in the 1906 to 1907 season. We had asked where the picture – loaned by John Lythe of Whittington – had been taken.

"It was in front of the old pavilion at the Cricket Field, Victoria Road, which was much the same into the 1950s," Mike told us. Now, back to the Oswestry Town/Oswestry United story.

"United came about due to the amalgamation of the Old Boys and Harriers clubs. Like Oswestry FC they played in the Shropshire League, with early games in Jennings Road and Park Drive.

"The club was disbanded a few games into 1914 and this proved to be the end of the United club.

"Football started again in 1919. Returning servicemen formed Oswestry Comrades, who entered the North Wales Alliance, playing at Penylan Lane when the cricket field was unavailable.

"In January 1920 the Mayor chaired a meeting of sportsmen to consider reviving the United club. It proved to be negative, but a new club was born, to be known as Oswestry Town. They kicked off in1920/21 in the North Wales Alliance and the following season,1921/22, they entered the newly-formed Welsh National League.

So how does Mike know all this?

"I am local and was involved with Oswestry Town at Victoria Road and later at Park Hall when the club resurfaced in 1993. This date for 1860 came out around the time of the Taylor report into safety at stadiums and the date at that time would have made the club 125 years old, a nice number to launch a new stand appeal. I made inquires at the club at the time as to where this date had come from, but no one was forthcoming.

"Subsequently the date was used on our programme and club products. I was never happy with this date. It went against anything that had been seen or found before and all earlier club claims were for 1876.

"Back in 1997 a friend and fellow committee member found in 1909 records an article that gave us the founding date of September 1875. The meeting at the Queens Hotel was attended by the cricket club and others. Association rules were adopted and first officers elected with playing subscriptions set.

"A month later the Oswestry club was playing, and the town of Oswestry association with the Welsh FA and Welsh football started with our entry into the very first Welsh Cup Competition in 1877."

So there you have it – the gauntlet is thrown down to anyone to come up with information to substantiate the claim Oswestry Town's roots go back to 1860.

Oswestry United Football Club. This picture was loaned by John Lythe of Whittington.

Invite to half-term walk in country

FAMILIES looking for a way to burn off excess energy this half-term are invited to take part in a spring snowdrop walk in Oswestry next Tuesday.

Starting from Oswestry Railway Station at 11am, the route will take in some of the best spots for snowdrops in the town and surrounding countryside.

Liz Evans from Oswestry Walkers said: "It will be a two-hour walk out of Oswestry to see a display of snowdrops in a lovely setting. The walk will go out of town, across fields, over stiles, uphill a bit and over a stream, so you will need appropriate footwear.

"It will be a steady, but not fast walk."

The walk is free, but donations can be made to Oswestry Walkers are Welcome. Call Mile End Visitor Centre on (01691) 662488 or email **oswestrytourism@shropshire.gov.uk** for more information.

Pianist at café

A ROMANTIC evening is in store for patrons of Wednesdays café bar in Oswestry as pianist and singer Derek Harrison will be tinkling the ivories on Valentine's Day. To book a table at the Bailey Street venue call (01691) 671026.

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From left are Steph Wright, Cindy Roberts and Debbie Wright at Shannon Sales.

IF YOU'VE never been to Shannon Sales, it's well worth a visit to see a company run by Debbie Wright.

Shannon Sales, a furniture and carpet store, situated in the pretty village of Chirk, was established over 40 years ago with showrooms set in a Victorian school.

The business was started in 1970 by a local couple, Sonny and Ann Jones, and is now run by their daughter Debbie assisted by a very helpful and capable team of staff.

Debbie and her team are on hand to

Advertisement feature

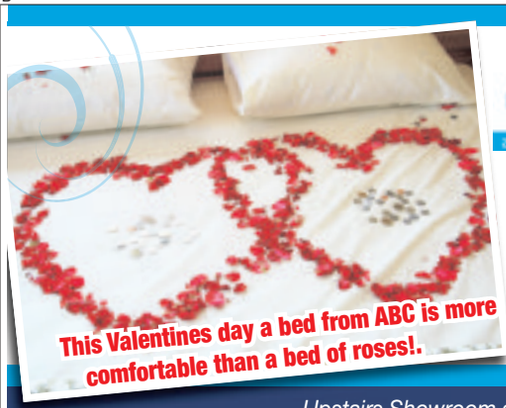
give you any help you require with making your purchases.

"We are happy to lend out both fabric and carpet samples so you can make your choice in your own home. We also happily lend out mirrors, pictures, lamps, coffee tables, nests, even small chests of drawers so you can see them in situ, thus reducing the chances of buying a white elephant," said Debbie.

Carpet fitters Fred, Mark and Colin have a combined experience with the company of over 40 years. When fitting your carpet, they will empty your room, take your old carpet up and dispose of it, trim any doors that need trimming, and then replace your furniture back on to your new carpet.

Debbie and her team have an extensive range of carpets from hardwearing, stain resistant Berbers to the best quality Axminsters and Wiltons.

Three seaters, two seaters, sofa beds, chairs, recliners, swivel chairs and a large selection of electric lift/rise recliners are on offer and they will even deliver a couple of lift/rise reclining chairs out to your home for you to try if you are unable to visit the shop.



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01691 668090

THE ARTS

01691 668094

Gallery calling for art to put on display in competition

by Pam Kingsley

A GALLERY in Oswestry is calling for submissions to an open exhibition being run in conjunction with the town's forthcoming literary festival.

The Willow Gallery will celebrate the influence and inspiration of literature and language on the visual arts with the six-week exhibition, which will open on March 7.

Artists are being invited to enter works in all media on the theme Painting with Words.

Gallery curator Tereska Shepherd said: "The exhibition is celebrating the influence and inspiration of literature and language on the visual arts.

Inspiration

"Some of the key themes for inspiration could be literature, language, storytelling, prose, poetry, song lyrics, sung and spoken word, or myths, legends and local history.

"We encourage artists to explore this interesting and inspiring topic in a broad range of styles, materials and interpretations. The exhibition will hopefully include paintings, sculpture, original prints, textiles, drawing, ceramics, glass and metal work, and photography."

Artists can submit single piece or a series of work, and submission fees will be charged according to the space used rather than number of works submitted. The gallery will be responsible for hanging all artwork.

During the exhibition a variety of literary festival-inspired creative and musical events will also be taking place at the gallery.

On March 17 at 7pm the gallery will host The Bookshop Band – a trio who perform songs which are inspired by literature.

Artist Pat Thatcher and Riikka Katajamaki launch the new year's events at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

Tickets are £10 and organisers expect the event to sell out. And, sticking with the musical theme, on March 22 there will be a songwriting workshop at the gallery with professional songwriters Eddie and Jenny Miller. No musical knowledge is required. Tickets are £8.

Entry packs for the exhibition and tickets for the other events are available from the gallery at Willow Street, Oswestry, or online at **www.willowgallery.co.uk**

The exhibition will run until April 19.

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Brothers will bring taste of Americana

GET ready for a real slice of Americana next Wednesday, as renowned duo The Stuart Brothers will be trading the mountains of Appalachia for The Cross Keys, Selattyn.

The pair hail from Bethel, USA, a once ancient Cherokee settlement where the Blue Ridge and Smokey Mountains meet.

Growing up in the shadow of the Appalachians, brothers Trevor and Travis were weaned on the rich musical tradition of the area.

Staying true to their roots they draw on the Appalachian fiddle and banjo tunes, Baptist spirituals and all night barn dances that they grew up with.

Music runs in their blood, as their great grandfather was legendary fiddle player Rev. Henry King, and their great uncle Austin Stamey was also celebrated banjoist and singer.

The pair have been playing together for over 30 years, and have performed at such prestigious venues as The Royal Albert Hall and New York's Beacon Theatre.

This is a really unique opportunity, so you definitely don't want to miss out.

The gig starts at 8pm with tickets costing £8 for adults and £4 for children.

If you're in the Welshpool area on Friday night, then make sure you head along to The Royal Oak as acoustic trio Not Completely Blonde will be performing.

The Stuart Brothers.

The talented trio is made up of Aliana Chambers, Beth Jones and Fiona MacKellar.

Since forming in 2011 they have gone from strength to strength, releasing their first EP 'Two Sides of the Atlantic' in 2012.

Also their track 'The Coffee Song' was featured as BBC Radio Shropshire's 'Song of the Month'.

Their songs contain elements of folk and pop, taking influence from the The Beatles and Regina Spektor.

You can expect beautiful harmonies, intelligent lyrics and some unique takes on classic songs.

They are currently working on a new EP, which they're aiming to release around March. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

Singer songwriter Paul Keys will be performing at The Lowfield Inn, Marton on Friday night. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

This Monday the Qube, Oswestry, will be holding a musical workshop aimed at children.

Titled 'Family Music Maze', the event will be led by musicians from the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

Aimed at children between ages 8-11, the workshop will give them the opportunity to perform and compose various pieces of music.

Don't worry if you can't bring your own instrument, as there will be plenty of spares.

It's sure to be a fun and creative experience. It runs from 11am until 3pm. It's free but you are asked to book a place. Call 01691 656882.

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FEATURE & NEWS

01691 668094

Housing plan gets go-ahead on appeal

A HOUSING development will be built in Gobowen despite local councillors' objections.

A planning inspector has given his blessing to a proposal for up to 15 homes at The Tilings in Whittington Road, Gobowen.

The ruling overturns the decision of both Shropshire councillors and members of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Shropshire Council's north planning committee decided last May that allowing the application to go ahead would lead to "sporadic, unsustainable development in the countryside".

But the decision was against the advice of the council's own planning officers and the applicant, Mrs Sarah Jones, then went to appeal.

Planning inspector Clive Whitehouse has now ruled that outline planning permission should be granted.

Mr Whitehouse said in his appeal ruling the council's policy to restrict housing development outside a defined settlement boundary was out-of-date because the council did not have a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

He added: "The site would extend the built-up area of the village and would therefore not be detached or sporadic development in an isolated position."

Winter animal watching will always be a challenge

ON THE WILD SIDE

by Ben Waddams

WATCHING mammals in winter is always going to be a challenge.

I write this as the first snow flurries flutter past my studio window.

I've just returned from my dog's morning constitutional, and aside from him, my mammal observations for the day stand at one – a herd of Hereford cattle.

"It never used to be like this", they say in one form or another relating to the weather.

And indeed I was lucky enough to once claim that in relation to my own life, winters were rather different for me. None of the floods, but plenty more snow and ice.

In the mid 1990s I found myself with bags packed and ready to embark on a new adventure into the American West.

It wasn't that we were travelling especially from soggy old England, for I was in fact living on the East Coast of the USA at the time and although we never went 'abroad' for the duration of our stay, spanning several years – who needs to go abroad when you have the whole of the US at your disposal? That is certainly true if you're into wildlife.

Expanse

Outside Africa and India, America has without doubt some of the most spectacular wildlife species on the planet, bears, wolves, bison, moose, deer, rattlesnakes, 'lions' etc etc.

However within that vast expanse of wilderness and patchwork of states, we were heading for the greatest; (wildlife-speaking) Montana.

Home to Yellowstone National Park it is a haven for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts.

But it has another less glamorous park ensconced within its boundaries; Glacier.

As the name suggests, Glacier National Park is best visited in winter and having been lucky enough to visit Yellowstone the year before the species my family and I wanted to tick off were bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

The trouble with viewing either of these is that the former blends in perfectly with its rocky habitat and the latter is invisible in the snow; in short, no easy task.

A year earlier we had suffered a truly arctic winter in New England with several feet of snow outside the front door. However this year we had got off lightly with just 10 inches or so.

It was still fittingly cold and icy in Glacier and as we hiked up the valley sides, realising that keeping an eye out for wildlife was tricky when you had to pay careful attention to your every foot placement on snow and ice.

Finally we reached a break in the trees and looked out across the valley.

On the far side there was a sheer mountain wall, peppered with white patches of snow that had managed to cling on somehow. And if you kept your eyes fixed on the larger patches, every so often a tawny figure would cross it and continue; Bighorns.

Death-defying doesn't even come close in describing their antics on these vertical rock walls, especially when it was icy underfoot. And yet we probably wouldn't have seen them if it wasn't.

However the mountain goats had eluded us. We trudged back to the car, whereupon we found we had drawn quite a gathering. People seemed to be peering round our parked vehicle and taking photos. I know the Americans are odd but…. We peered round as Dad unlocked the car. A family of mountain goats were grazing next to the engine on one of the only snow-free patches of ground nearby. Two winter mammals for the price of one.

Ben's original artwork can be seen at Callaghan's Fine Paintings, Shrewsbury.

Light on Rock and Fur – Bighorn Sheep (2014).

Hospice is boosted by pupils' concert

MUSICAL children from a county primary school raised £500 for charity after singing Christmas carols in three languages.

The pupils at Brynhafren School, Crew Green, held a carol concert in aid of the Severn Hospice at the end of last term at St Michael and All Angels Church, Alberbury.

Reverend Val Tait opened the night as the children sang more than 20 Christmas carols, including Silent Night in English, Welsh and German, and several solos performed by children in Years 5 and 6.

Headteacher David Lambourn also had the audience on their feet as they took part in a rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas, wearing a Santa outfit and running up and down the aisles auctioning hats for each of the 12 days in the song and losing his trousers while doing so.

Cathy Beckett, spokeswoman for the school, said: "The church was full, not only with the children's parents, but also lots of people from the local community.

"The school chose to raise money for The Severn Hospice because Mr Lambourn had recently completed a memorial run in memory of Keith Ivison and had visited the hospice.

"This year is also 25 years since the hospice opened."

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

FEBRUARY 10
OTMS (59)

AN entry of 59 over thirty month cattle realised an average of 125.58 ppkg, and 139.72 for the younger cows.

A Limousin cow weighing 913 kg from R B Jones, Llwynobin, made the top price of £1305.59, Mr R B Jones is therefore in receipt of the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest priced older cow sold on the day.

Another Limousin cow weighing 793kg presented by TE & EM Davies & Sons, Tyncwm, realised £1133.99. A British Blue bull over 72 months weighing 884kg presented by R I Owen & Co, Cwmffynnon, realised £1166.88.

A Charolais bull presented by E D Jones, Pengraig, weighing 947kg made £1117.46. A younger Limousin cow weighing 839kg presented by FW Humphreys & Sons, Brook House made £1359.18.

An under 48 months Limousin heifer weighing 671kg presented by J & M Cherry, The Graig, made £1274.90.

Another Limousin heifer weighing 666kg presented by J A Wood & Sons, Kinnerton Farm, realised £1192.14.

FAT CATTLE (6)

An entry of 6 fat cattle averaged 202.38 ppkg. A Limousin heavyweight heifer weighing 493 kg presented by J Edwards, Mount Farm, topped the market at 231ppkg. Therefore Mr Edwards receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25. Mr J Edwards also presented a Charolais heifer and another Limousin weighing 560kg and 545 kg making 220 ppkg and 200 ppkg respectively. Three Limousin heifers weighing 551 kg, 483 kg and 541 kg presented by EE & MJ Jones & Son, Cwmbychan, made 198 ppkg, 191 ppkg and 173 ppkg respectively.

PRIME HOGGETS (4692)

An entry of 4692 prime hoggets averaged 186.12 pp/kg.

Super Lights (65) to 180 pp/kg from E W Howells, Esgair yr Hydd. Others to 175 pp/kg from M & H Evans, Tycerrig. Average of 169.37 pp/kg.

Lights (433) to 193 pp/kg from E P Hughes & Co, Porth and I Jones, Glanllyn. Others to 191 pp/kg from J T Lewis, Trawscoed. Average of 175.80 pp/kg.

Standards (1048) to 231 pp/kg from D Langford, Gaer. Others to 224 pp/kg from C L & C Watkins, Bank Farm. Average of 184.57 pp/kg.

Mediums (1946) to 226 pp/kg from R A Davies, Llwynderw. Others to 222 pp/kg from D Langford, Gaer. Average of 188.41 pp/kg.

Heavies (806) to 189 pp/kg from AJ & JA Powell, Grove Farm. Others to 185 pp/kg from Red House Farm, Aberhafesp. Average of 173.74 pp/kg

Overweights (258) to 165 pp/kg from RL & ME Jukes, Tynybryn.

Others to 164 pp/kg also from W E G Evans, Llwynycrwth. Average of 151.21 pp/kg.

We advise all fat hogget vendors to belly clip their lambs.

CULL EWE (2322)

An improved trade returned an overall average of £53.24 for the ewes and £63.36 for the rams. The ewes topped at £125 for a pen of two cull ewes from WRP Jones, Pant.

A pen of 7 from CL & C Watkins, Bank Farm sold to £118. F A Jones, Sandstone sold a pen of 12 for £115, a pen of 20 for £102 and a pen of 9 making £101. Cull rams topped at £118.50 from E P Hughes, The Porth, and £115 from GR & SJ Lloyd, Esgair Inglis.

Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx 12 noon.

STORE LAMBS

Store Lambs: This Monday we saw an entry of 265 store lambs, achieving an average price of £47.70/ per head.

DA and SJ Jones, Dyffryn achieved a top price of £65 for texel x mixed and clean lambs.

£63 was the top price gained for texel cross theave lambs presented by Mr A Love, Rownal Farm.

Tup lambs produced a top price of £60 brought forward by EW Howells, Esgairhydd.

We saw an increased entry of 355 in-lamb ewes compared to last week with a special entry from RA Evans, deceased who achieved the top price of £100 for full mouth texel ewes.

Yearling and two year old speckled face ewes achieved a top price of £54.

As found Suffolk ewes forward from Ashbrook & Sons, Pentrekendrick produced a top price of £95.

Same again next week with store lambs being sold from 10.30am followed by in-lam ewes.

DAIRY CATTLE

An entry of just two dairy cattle met with a sound trade with a 5th calver from G Jones & Co, Tycerrig, selling for £1520. A sweet British Friesian heifer from N Samuel, Lower Ystrad, Newbridge on Wye, giving 25L sold for £1680.

STORE CATTLE

With the continued dip in fat cattle prices, the store trade was steadier than the last few sales with buyers being a little more continuous in their bidding. Never the less the best cattle were sought after, which resulted in the averages for heifers being 195.39ppkg and 214.41ppkg for steers.

Top prices are as follows;

Steers:

Limousin (x2) £1300 580kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn

Blonde D'Aquataine (x1) £1290 605kg from D Jones, Foel Farm

Limousin (x1) £1180 560kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn

Heifers:

Limousin (x1) £1370 505kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn

Charolias (x1) £1280 620kg from N A Derwas, Plas Trehelig

Limousin (x1) £1200 510kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn

Leading prices per kilo

Steers:

Limousin (x1) 242.90ppkg 280kg from CE & GJ Roberts, Rhydycil

Limousin (x2) 234.30ppkg 397kg from G R Jones, Tynrhos

Charolais (x2) 233.70ppkg 475kg from Welsh farm Organics, Tynyfron

Heifers:

Limousin (x1) 271.30 505kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn; Limousin (x1) 235.30 510kg from W T Jones & Co, Croesllwyn

Charolais (x1) 231.20 385kg from Welsh Farm Organics, Tynyfron

Forthcoming Sales.

Tuesday, February 25 – February Store Cattle Fair

Tuesday, March 11 – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings

Tuesday, March 25 – March Store Cattle Fair

Tuesday, April 8 – Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings

Oswestry cattle auctions

FEBRUARY 5

FAT CATTLE: (53)

Fewer cattle not surprising given the weather conditions today, nevertheless same good runs of cattle forward.

Bulls still hard work and with not many forward today sold to a similar trade. Top slots hit 265p for Heifers, 223p for Steers and 220p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1482 for a Steer.

Bottom book of 125p for a small friesian bull. An overall market average of 202p was achieved. If you have cattle to sell please contact the Auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office.

Young Bulls (16) Overall Average 178.5p.

Light Bulls (2) Average 139.5p (£580/head) Selling to 153p from R H Clifton Marchville

Medium Bulls (7) Average 184p (£950/head) Selling to 216p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Heavy Bulls (7) Average 181.5p (£1100/head) Selling to 220p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Steers (11) Overall Average 191.5p.

Light Steers (1) Selling to 175p (£578/head) from R O Thomas Bryncoch

Medium Steers (1) Selling to 180p (£972/head) from B J & G M Williams Hinwell House

Heavy Steers (9) Average 194p (£1255/head) Selling to 223p from J D Jones Croggen Iddon

Heifers (26) Overall Average 221.5p

Light Heifers (1) Selling to 235p (£928/head) from T & B Williams Cilmawr

Medium Heifers (5) Average 219.5p (£1030/head) Selling to 250p from T & B Williams Cilmawr

Heavy Heifers (20) Average 222p (£1255/head) Selling to 265p from W Hughes & Son Waen Farm

A good solid trade for good solid cattle. Thank you for your continued support

FAT HOGGETS: (2095)

An entry of 2095 fat hoggs on Wednesday, February 5 with an average of 181.5p/kg compared with 151.5p/kg in 2013.

413 light hoggs levelled at 180p/kg with a top call of 291p/kg from W & H H Lloyd Cefnymaes with 29.5kg at £55.50. The 648 standard hoggs averaged 179p/kg with the top call of 206p/kg from H F Jones Tynewydd with 33.5kg fetching £69.

The 689 medium Hoggs averaged 184p/kg with a top call of £87.50 for 43kg from M & S Jones Lower Forest, their consignment of 88 hoggs averaged 197.22p/kg or £83.34.

Heavy hoggs averaged 175.5p/kg with the top call of £92.50 per head.

Superlights to 168p average 162p Lights to 191p average 180p, Standards to 206p average 179p, Mediums to 203p average 184p, Heavy's to 185p average 175.5p, Others to 171p average 154.5p. Overall average 181.5p.

More hoggets are required each week to meet demand, sorting facilities are available to all vendors.

FAT EWES: (798)

A larger entry met with more spirited bidding for everything on show with higher quality ewes in particular being better sold than recent weeks.

An overall average of £46 was reported with a top price of £88 for a cracking pen of ewes from Thomas Bros, Rhiwlas.

A much better trade on rams with 36 averaging £64.50 and a top price of £89 for single tup from E J Jackson, St Martins.

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (59)

Another good entry selling to a strong trade for best continental males and females but 2nd and 3rd quality marginally harder to cash.

Poorer sorts totally discounted, friesians harder to sell. Best Limousin Bulls topping at £372 from Messrs Davies Park Mill £350 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa £270 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. British Blue Bulls to £362 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed £360 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa £340 from Messrs Evans Forge Farm. Simmental Bulls to £292 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm.

Hereford Bulls to £250 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes.

Saler Bulls to £290 & £280 from Messrs Jones Manor Farm.

Limousin Heifers to £256 from Messrs Moore Oaks Farm £240 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch. British Blue Heifers to £252 from Messrs Wigley Drenewydd.

Simmental Heifers to £202 from Messrs James Church Farm. Hereford Heifers to £184 from Messrs Davies Park Mill.

Friesian Bulls to £72 from Messrs Gilman Birch Hall £70 from Messrs Williams Lightwood Hall

U72 & CULL COWS: (43)

A seasonal entry of 43 cattle met with an excellent trade.

The continental cattle were in short supply but were very well sold as were all friesian cattle from the plain ones to the very best. Demand was strong for everything including stock bulls.

Top priced Cow 164p/kg Heifer 140p/kg Steer 154p/kg Stock Bull to 128p/kg

Cows

Limousin to 164p average 138.79p/kg

Friesian to 122p average 89.46p/kg

Others to 125p average 109.21p/kg

Heifers to 140p/kg

Steers

Friesian to 136p average 139.98p/kg

Others to 154p average 152p/kg

Bulls to 128p average 117.50p/kg

43 Cattle average 114.53p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our database can be updated many thanks.

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60 Reg Ford Fiesta Diesel

Cash Price & Total Payable £6495 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £24.98 0% APR

10 Reg Ford Focus

Cash Price & Total Payable £5995 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £23.05 0% APR

61 Reg Seat Ibiza

Cash Price & Total Payable £7495 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £28.83 0% APR

13 Reg Vauxhall Corsa SE

Cash Price & Total Payable £8995 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £34.59 0% APR

10 Reg Vauxhall Zafira

Cash Price & Total Payable £6995 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £26.90 0% APR

11 Reg Citroen C3

Cash Price & Total Payable £6495 Deposit Nil 260 Weekly Payments of £24.98 0% APR

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Drivetime

5008 Up there with the best

Graham Breeze
Motoring writer
graham.breeze@shropshirestar.co.uk

MOTORISTS with an eye on an MPV are spoiled for choice these days with all the leading brands competing head-to-head.

So it's no surprise to see Peugeot giving their already popular 5008 a makeover to ensure its not only one of the most spacious and practical contenders, but also one of the best looking.

A spacious cabin and user-friendly, flexible seating, together with very competitive pricing mean buyers should take a good look before making a choice.

The seven-seater 5008 benefits from a contemporary new look and additional equipment and higher specification combines high-driving position with comfort levels for all occupants The 5008 is the latest model in the brand's line-up to benefit from a comprehensive makeover featuring significant external changes.

Key to the 5008's appeal will be the latest family 'face' with the striking 'floating' front grille that's already proved such a hit with buyers choosing the recently-launched Peugeot 208 and 2008.

It's distinguished by redesigned headlamps with a bold new LED signature.

Prices start from £18,800 with the Access 1.6-litre VTi 120bhp petrol while the entry level diesel is the 1.6-litre HDi FAP 115bhp at £20,495.

On test was an Allure HDi 115 which is available at £24,000 though the test car benefitted from leather seating, metallic paint, Xenon lighting and a superb video pack in the front headrest to keep the kids happy on those long journeys. All of which added over £3,000 to the price.

Inside there's plenty of room for seven if you account for the kids sitting at the back and just like all the other competition in this sector oceans of storage space in door and central pockets.

The diesel produces impressive CO2 figures of 135g/km and combined fuel figures of 54mpg. It's no slouch either with a top speed of 115mph though getting to 62mph will take you nearly 13 seconds – a bit disappointing.

I have become a fan of Peugeot's six speed manual box so was pleased not to be testing the automatic version.

There's no shortage of safety aids on board with air bags all round, ABS with emergency brake assist, ESP and ASR and Peugeot's impressive snow motion system available on the Allure.

There's a space saver spare wheel which I suppose is better than the emergency kits on some models, though give me a real spare any day. The 5008 also has a full alarm and deadlock system to keep burglars at bay which has helped the model secure a five star Euro NCAP rating.

Front and rear parking assistance is supplemented by a reversing camera indicating the outline of the vehicle using coloured markings.

But the piece of real magic for me was the heads-up display on the driver's screen giving the speed of the vehicle and the distance from the vehicle in front. I'm a mug for a gimmick and they don't come much better than this. It should be standard on all cars because it means the driver's eyes stay on the road ahead.

Would I buy the 5008? Yes. There's a lot of competition in this sector but this Peugeot is up there with the best.

The 5008 benefits from a contemporary new look and additional equipment and higher specification

Tested

Peugeot: 5008 Allure
Model: HDi 115
Cost: £24,000
Top speed: 115mph
0-62:12.9secs
C02 emissions: 135g/km
Combined fuel: 54.3mpg

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Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Total charge for credit	£ 2,087.80
Interest rate (fixed for the duration of the agreement)	4.25%
Representative	9.5% APR
The credit and the charge for credit is repayable by 1 initial payment of	£ 319.08
58 monthly payments of	£ 169.08
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Total amount payable	£ 11,053.80
Duration of the agreement	60 months

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2007 57	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 GS** Auto. Metallic Silver, 61,000 miles	SOLD
2006 06	**LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 TDV6** 6-speed Manual 7 Seater. Full leather, Bluetooth, Metallic Silver, privacy glass, 69,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2009 09	**LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 S** 6-speed Manual. Metallic Black, full leather, 56,000 miles, FSH	£13,499
2007 57	**MERCEDES C220 CDi ELEGANCE** Auto. Metallic Silver, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH	£8,999
2012 62	**MG 6 1.8 TURBO HATCH** 5-door, Manual, 1,800 miles, White. Like brand new	£8,999
2008 08	**NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi VISIA** 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 73,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2006 06	**NISSAN 350Z 300** 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full heated Black leather, only 37,000 miles	SOLD
2011 61	**NISSAN QUASQUAI 1.6 TDCi 130bhp,** Tekna, Manual, 39,000 miles, Leather, Sat Van, Pan Roof, Top Spc	£13,499
2007 57	**PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT 1.6** Manual. Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2011 11	**PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4 5-door.** Light Metallic Blue, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£6,999
2010 10	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6** 5-door. Blue, 1 owner, 21,000 miles	£6,999
2010 10	**RENAULT MODUS 1.2 EXPRESSION** 5-door, Manual. Bright Blue Metallic. 1 owner, 42,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2009 59	**RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION** 5-door. Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles	£4,999
2002 02	**SEAT LEON 1.4 S 16V** 5-door. Bronze Metallic, alloy wheels, 79,000 miles, excellent condition	£1,999
2009 09	**SKODA OCTAVIA SCOUT 2.0 TDi 4X4 ESTATE** Manual. Blue, 64,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2006 55	**SUZUKI IGNIS 1.5 GLX VVT** 5-door. Grey Metallic, 57,500 miles, alloy wheels	£3,999
2004 04	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN** 5-door. 43,000 miles, Metallic Green, FSH	£2,999
2012 12	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi SE.** Metallic Black, 13,000 miles, sat nav, panoramic roof, FSH	£9,999
2009 59	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi** 3-door Manual ,Metallic Silver, 47,000 miles	£5,299
2009 59	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN** 5-door. Metallic Silver, 63,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2008 08	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 BREEZE HATCH** 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 31,000 miles	£5,499
2007 07	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi** 5-door. Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2004 04	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELEGANCE 1.8** 7-seater, Metallic Silver, 96,000 miles, DVD player	£1,999
2008 08	**VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic** , 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic	£17,999
2006 06	**TOYOTA RAV 4 D4D T180 Top Spec Manual.** Metallic Grey, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH	£8,499
2010 60	**VW EOS 2.0 TDi S** 6 Speed Manual. Metallic Black, 1 owner, 48,000 miles, FSH	£9,999
2006 06	**VW PASSAT 2.0 TDi SPORT ESTATE Manual.** Metallic blue, 86,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2009 59	**VW GOLF 1.4 TFSi SE** 5-door. Metallic Black, 57,000 miles	SOLD
2008 08	**VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp 2.0 TDi** 5-door 6-speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full leather, privacy glass, 54,000 miles, FSH	£9,499
2008 58	**VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SPORT 4MOTION.** Champagne Silver, 38,000 miles	£13,999
2013 13	**VW TRANSPORTER CAMPER VAN** Metallic Dark Wood, 11,000 miles, Brand New Camper 4 Berth Conversion done by Gee Wagen, Oswestry, top spec, air con, cruise control, FSH	NO VAT £38,500

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2012 12 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi SE Metallic Grey, sat nav, 1/2 leather, pan roof, 13,000 miles **£9,999**

06 06 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 TDV6 6-speed Manual 7 Seater. Full leather, Bluetooth, Metallic Silver, privacy glass, 69,000 miles, FSH**£13,999**

2013 13 VW TRANSPORTER CAMPER VAN Metallic Dark Wood, 11,000 miles, Brand New Camper 4 Berth Conversion done by Gee Wagen, Oswestry, top spec, air con, cruise control, FSH **£38,500**

2009 09 SKODA OCTAVIA SCOUT 2.0 TDi 4X4 ESTATE Manual. Blue, 64,000 miles, FSH **£10,999**

2009 09 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 TDV6 GS Automatic. Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, 2 owners, full Black leather, FSH, roof bars £20,999

2008 08 VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp 2.0 TDi 5-door 6-speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full leather, privacy glass, 54,000 miles, FSH **£9,499**

2008 58 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SPORT 4MOTION. Champagne Silver, 38,000 miles **£13,999**

2010 60 CITROEN C3 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, 23,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax **£7,999**

2007 57 MERCEDES C220 CDi ELEGANCE Auto. Metallic Silver, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH **£8,999**

SPORT

Talbot dart into semis with Gittins to the max

THE TALBOT A eased through to the semi-finals of the Richard Cup in Welshpool Darts League with a comprehensive 5-2 victory against the Pheasant.

Welshpool Social Club joining them with a 4-1 win against The Raven A with Wyn Gittins hitting a 180 and a 115 checkout.

The other games were closer with the Westwood finding a stubborn Raven B in the way and a final doubles match going the Westwood's way to reach the semi's.

The second division has a representative in the semi's with a close affair settled 3–4 with the Cock victorious at Castle 26ers.

The draw for the semi finals will be held on Sunday after next week's Bagshaw Cup quarter-finals.

Last week saw Welshpool Darts Leagues Mitch Butler and his partner reach the doubles semi finals of the 2014 Dutch Open tournament in Holland, only just losing out to the eventual winners in a close game.

Raven B's Katy Bellerby has been selected for the Welsh Ladies Squad. The call up has come after Katy hit the number one spot in the Welsh Darts county averages earlier this year and some great averages and wins in the Montgomery and Radnor Super League

Delighted Jones gets TNS debut

DEFENDER Curtis Jones, who made his first appearance in a friendly last weekend, is delighted to have been handed a chance with Welsh Premier high fliers The New Saints.

"I am over the moon to have signed a contract," he said.

"I love the way TNS play football and it really suits my style. I am only 20 and I am still young and I am always trying to improve."

■ Niall Broe has been appointed as the new Community Foundation Officer with The New Saints.

■ The New Saints are holding a half term football camp for youngsters between the ages of five and 13 next week. It costs £15 per day, and £18 with a meal. Contact the club.

PLACINGS

Welshpool Dominoes League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Cock P/A	18	13	5	76	50
Sun Inn	18	11	7	72	54
Pinewood C	16	11	5	67	45
Powis Arms P/Q	18	9	9	64	62
Waterloo	17	11	6	63	56
G/Dragon Butt B	16	9	7	58	54
Pinewood A	16	8	8	56	56
G/Dragon Butt A	18	7	11	56	70
Cock A	16	7	9	54	58
Celts	16	6	10	51	61
Compasses	18	6	12	50	76
Social Club	17	5	12	47	72

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Talbot	16	13	3	77	35
Westwood Wand	17	12	5	71	48
Bowling Club	16	10	6	67	45
Breidden	17	10	7	67	52
The Real Railway	17	10	7	67	52
Kings Head	18	10	8	65	61
Pinewood Dragons	17	8	9	59	60
Angel	18	9	9	59	67
Westwood	17	5	12	49	70
Muriels Bunch	17	6	11	48	71
RAF Boys	17	5	12	47	72
Wellington	17	4	13	38	81

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cross Foxes	16	8	6	2	60	36	22
Black Lion A	15	9	1	5	55	35	19
Black Lion B	16	6	7	3	53	43	19
Station	16	7	5	4	53	43	19
Penybont Inn	16	6	7	3	52	44	19
Top White Lion	16	7	5	4	48	48	19
Plas Yn Dinas	16	7	4	5	51	45	18
Bradford Arms	16	6	5	5	49	47	17
Horseshoe	15	5	4	6	45	45	14
White Lion	15	2	8	5	42	48	12
Black Horse	16	2	5	9	37	59	9
Barley Mow	16	3	3	10	33	63	9
Railway Tavern	15	2	4	9	35	55	8

FC Oswestry Town's Stefan Ivanov (left) and Graham Dyke, who got on the scoresheet against Impact

New Saints in friendly action

WHILE games up and down the region suffered a total washout, The New Saints and Guilsfield took their chance of much needed action with a friendly on the artificial surface at a rainswept Park Hall.

The rival camps were desperate for a runout after a frustrating run of postponements due to waterlogged pitches, with TNS shaking off the cobwebs with a 3-0 victory in a hastily arranged clash courtesy of goals from Ryan Fraughan, Greg Draper and Sam Finley.

Fraughan gave the Welsh Premier high fliers a 19th minute lead after poking in from close range, while Mike Wilde had a couple of chances to double the lead.

Leading 1-0 at half time, Saints director of football Craig Harrison made a number of changes at the beginning of the second half, which saw the introduction of new defender Curtis Jones.

And soon they were 2-0 up when Jamie Mullan's excellent cross was met by Draper, who made no mistake from a few yards out to double the advantage.

Battled

The Cymru Alliance visitors battled hard in the rain, but TNS went further ahead when Sam Finley lashed home a powerful strike after Mullan had once again produced a wonderful cross into the box.

Defender Connell Rawlinson nearly added a fourth goal but headed just wide as the Saints controlled the match and coasted to a three-goal win.

Despite the defeat, it proved a useful workout for Guilsfield who will be out to stretch their unbeaten run to nine matches when they host Caernarfon in the Cymru Alliance Cup on Saturday.

The Guils were left kicking their heels again as last Friday night's Central Wales Cup clash with Machynlleth was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Lowly LLANRHAEADR, having also been frustrated by the deluge of late, will also be hoping to get back to Cymru Alliance duty when they head to Rhydymwyn on Saturday, weather permitting.

Despite some improvements, their prospects of survival look bleak with George Hughes' side rooted to the foot of the table, and some 15 points from safety.

Spar games postponed as weather takes over

THE Spar Mid Wales League suffered a washout with all six scheduled games postponed due to waterlogged pitches as the stormy weather decimated the football programme in the region.

Welshpool, looking for much needed points after slipping into the lower reaches of the table, saw their home clash with Bow Street called off in division one with their Maesydre pitch unfit.

Another side aiming to halt their slump, Four Crosses, were left kicking their heels as their trip to Tywyn Bryncrug was another first division clash to succumb to the elements, as did Llansantffraid Village's encounter at Aberystwyth University.

Three games in division two, including Kerry's home meeting with Newbridge, were also postponed as the stormy weather continues to wreak havoc with the fixture programme throughout the region.

Other casualties were Newtown's home tie with Holywell Town in the Welsh Cup fourth round which was postponed a second time due to a waterlogged pitch.

Signing

The clubs will be hoping it is third time lucky as they attempt to stage the game on Saturday, but this time it will be at Holywell's ground on an FA of Wales ruling following two postponements at Latham Park.

All but one of the games in the Cymru Alliance were called off, while the Montgomeryshire League and Central Wales Cup were totally wiped out due to waterlogged pitches.

■ They may have been without a game, but Caersws have been busy off the pitch by signing striker Mike Collister from Cymru Alliance rivals Rhayader Town. The arrival of Collister comes hard on the heels of another front man, Ross Jefferies from Bala Town.

Saturday's fixtures

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Caersws v Flint, Cefn Druids v Buckley Town, Holyhead Hotspur v Rhayader Town, Penrhyncoch v Penycae, Rhydymwyn v Llanrhaeadr, Porthmadog v Llanidloes.

Huws Gray Cup: Conwy Borough v Llandudno, Guilsfield v Caernarfon.

Second half show seals win for four-midable Oswestry

HIGH-flying FC Oswestry Town kept their flag flying in the Shropshire Cup with a solid 4-0 passage against Impact at Park Hall – all the goals coming in the second half.

Lying six points clear at the top of the Mercian Regional League division one, Nick Maguire's side were in confident mood against a side who play a division below.

And they were determined to make the most of being one of the few sides to don their boots after the wet weather forced most games to be postponed over weekend.

Town started brightly on the artificial surface against a well organised Impact team and caused the visitors problems from the outset with chances falling to Stefan Ivanov, Scott Bright and Graham Dyke.

However, the Impact keeper was in fine form and managed to prevent any scoring as the half time whistle blew.

The second half saw FC Oswestry step up a gear and they soon made the breakthrough with a terrific strike from Ivanov which broke the back of the visitors' resistance.

A second goal arrived when centre back Al Morris jumped highest at the back post to thump a header past the visiting keeper.

Ivanov was at it again when he smashed home his second and Town's third, before the scoring was completed when Dyke added his name to the scoresheet with a smart finish.

Manager Nick Maguire was happy with the win after the weather had interrupted his team's push for the title in recent weeks.

It was a timely runout before FC Oswestry return to league duty when they entertain Brown Clee on Saturday (5pm) looking to maintain their pursuit of honours in division one.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

Shropshire Challenge Cup third round: Oswestry Town 4, Impact Utd 0; Telford Jun 3, Ketley Bank Utd 0.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oswestry Town	17	13	3	1	69	13	42
Bishops Castle T	16	12	0	4	59	15	36
Childs Ercall	14	11	0	3	68	12	33
Dawley Town	18	9	3	6	49	41	30
Wroxeter Rovers	11	8	3	0	47	11	27
Rock Rovers FC	13	8	2	3	57	27	26
Hanwood Utd R	15	8	2	5	47	20	26
Clee Hill	14	6	5	3	36	24	23
Oakengates Rang	18	7	2	9	34	47	23
Brown Clee	15	6	1	8	39	36	19
Oswestry Villa	17	5	3	9	34	42	18
Meole Brace	16	4	2	10	28	74	14
Wrock Wood Jnrs	19	3	2	14	21	76	11
Shawbury Utd Res	18	3	1	14	19	81	10
Shrewsbury Utd	19	2	1	16	26	114	7

Weather the only winner

FOR the second week running, the Roche North Shropshire Sunday Football League suffered a total washout with all games postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Fixtures for next Sunday (weather permitting): League Cup round one: Tavern FC v Dudleston Heath, Athletico Market v Lodge Inn, Cross Foxes v Oak Inn. Cheshire County Cup: Malpas v Spital Vaults.

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

St Martins get game on – and maintain revival

ST MARTINS maintained their revival with a third straight win to further boost their hopes of survival in the West Midlands League division one.

Victories against Ledbury Town (2-0) and Hereford Lads (3-2) had lifted the Saints out of the bottom two, and they continued their resurgence with a 2-0 home win over Wyrley at the Venue Park Hall.

With their basement rivals washed out, it proved another good night for Ryan Butcher's side who, although remaining fourth from bottom, are now six points above the relegation zone.

First half goals from Sam Thomas and Karl Bailey proved enough to secure the points, although St Martins had enough chances to have emerged more emphatic winners.

Defending

Wyrley, lying fifth in the table, started well enough, but they struggled to carve many clear-cut openings against some solid defending.

The Saints never looked back after taking a 10th minute lead when Josh Sumner put the ball across to Thomas who headed home.

A second goal arrived before half time when Sumner released Bailey who produced a strong run before firing past the keeper.

Wyrley battled hard after the break, becoming increasingly robust and frustrated, but the Saints held firm and had chances to add to their tally.

Bailey went through but shot straight at the keeper off his less favoured left foot, while late on Sumner shot wide with just the keeper to beat.

New captains drive in at Mile End

The new Mile End Golf Club captains have driven in to office. Seen on th tee are club captain Ian Thomas, ladies captian Moya Holmes and seniors captain John Currie. They are all looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year at the club.

Golf course work for students

STUDENTS in Shropshire are being encouraged to take up course work with a difference.

Mile End Golf Club is offering a free open day to those in further education across the county which will provide the opportunity to receive expert coaching from PGA professional James Davies and his team.

The event takes place on Saturday, February 22 from 1pm-3pm, and all equipment will be provided at the club, which can be found in Shrewsbury Road, Morda, Oswestry.

Further information is available from the club on 01691-671246 or by registering directly at http://getintogolf.org/shrop

The club is already working with Walford College in Oswestry to provide a pathway into golf for their students.

The open day is being offered as part of the national "Get Into Golf" campaign in conjunction with the Shropshire and Herefordshire County Golf Partnership.

Said Mark Taylor, county development officer for the Shropshire and Herefordshire CGP: "Students can find it difficult to either start playing golf or keep up their interest in the sport while combining it with their studies.

Benefits

"But initiatives like the event at Mile End provide a cost-effective way for students to get involved while balancing other priorities like their course work.

"Golf is a game that stays with you for life, so even if it is not a major priority at this stage of your life, learning the skills needed to play the game will be something that stands you in good stead for the future to enjoy a sport that brings so many health and social benefits for people of all ages and abilities."

"Get Into Golf" is a national campaign to inspire new golfers run by the England Golf Partnership through its network of county golf partnerships, which work to grow the game.

Opportunities include free or low-cost beginner courses with PGA professionals. They are a fun and sociable way to start golf - and a great way to make new friends.

Discounted lessons can cost as little as £25 for a five-week course.

To find your nearest centre visit getintogolf.org and look at the activity map or call 0800-1182766

Morda cup trip a victim of the rain

THE weather yet again beat Morda United when last Saturday's Shropshire Cup tie away to Clee Hill United was postponed.

The Clee Hill pitch had been doubtful in midweek so it was no surprise when the game was called off the night before.

Morda, who have not seen any action since drawing 1-1 at Wellington Amateurs back on December 7, are due to travel to Shifnal United 97 in a Mercian Regional League division one fixture on Saturday.

The Weston Road men still have 11 league games to play, while they are also involved in two cup competitions, the league cup and Shropshire Cup.

Boss Craig Rogers has two new signings in the team's ranks, striker Chris Bishop and central midfielder Jack Hughes, both waiting to make their debuts after joining from Weston Rhyn.

SPORT

Gwilt nets Welsh title after thriller in Cardiff

BADMINTON ace Oliver Gwilt turned on the style to lift the Yonex Welsh National Seniors Doubles title with his partner Daniel Font.

Seeded second in the competition, the pair beat the favourites, Llanelli's Joe Morgan and Conwy's Nic Strange, in an exciting final in Cardiff.

Former Guilsfield lad Gwilt and Font edged the first game 21-19 but, in second, they stormed to victory to secure to deservedly take the crown. For Font, it was a clean sweep of singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles.

It was a successful return to action though for Gwilt who had been on the sidelines with a lengthy lay off after suffering a broken arm.

"All I can say is that it's great to be back playing badminton again after my injury in China last summer," he said. "I did not think I would be back playing for several months, especially as O was only given the all clear four weeks ago.

"I was desperate to play the Welsh Nationals so I have been through some intensive training and physio to get me to where I needed to be.

"To play in my first tournament since the injury and to win was amazing, especially as it was the Welsh Nationals Doubles title. It has made all the hard work worthwhile but this is just the start for me."

Gwilt has a hectic few months ahead, partnering up with Font and Sarah Thomas as they chase valuable ranking points in anticipation for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year.

PLACINGS

English Clubs

MIDLANDS 3 WEST (NORTH)

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Veseyans	13	13	0	0	8	60
Shrewsbury	14	10	0	4	12	52
Burntwood	14	10	1	3	10	52
Handsworth	14	10	0	4	12	52
Edwardians	13	9	1	3	4	42
Newcastle (Staffs)	14	8	0	6	9	41
Uttoxeter	14	8	0	6	3	35
Eccleshall	14	4	0	10	8	24
Bloxwich	14	4	0	10	7	13
Market Drayton	14	2	0	12	7	10
Wednesbury	14	4	0	10	4	5
Yardley & District	14	0	0	14	2	2

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Manchester Medics	17	16	0	1	15	77
L'pool Collegiate	17	14	1	2	12	70
Ormskirk	17	14	1	2	10	68
Bowdon	17	14	0	3	11	67
Southport	17	11	0	6	7	46
Vagabonds	17	9	0	8	8	44
Oswestry	17	8	1	8	9	43
Moore	17	6	1	10	8	34
Port Sunlight	17	6	1	10	8	34
Orrell	17	5	1	11	7	29
Marple	17	5	0	12	6	26
Dukinfield	17	3	2	12	5	21
Ramsey	17	4	0	13	2	18
Wallasey	17	0	0	17	3	-7

Great Scot! Moreton Hall girls are champions

MORETON Hall made a successful trip across the border to retain the Rathbones Scottish Open Schools Lacrosse Tournament trophy.

The team competed exceptionally well against squads from all over Scotland and England and were crowned champions after a tensely fought final match against St Albans High School.

It meant they won all their six matches in the tournament, defeating Queens Margaret's 7-2, Sedbergh 5-1, Glenalmond 5-2 and St George's 8-1.

In the semi-final, they swept aside Harrogate Ladies' College 7-0 before sealing a closely fought 5-4 success against St Albans High School in the final.

"We are very proud of the Moreton team players after what was a close and tense final," said head of sport Kate Groves.

"The tournament as a whole was of an even higher standard than last year and it was great to be able to travel to Scotland and compete against teams whom we do not normally play.

The senior teams have been working hard this season and it is very rewarding for them to win this prestigious tournament. We are now looking forward to the National Schools Lacrosse tournament in Guildford in March."

■ **Pictured are Moreton Hall's lacrosse team who successfully defended their crown**

COBRA on way back – and looking for points

AFTER a two-week break, COBRA's rugby players will hope to return to duty in the Swalec League division one (north) as they chase much needed points against visiting Denbigh.

The Meifod men have slipped to second from bottom in the table after losing five of their last six outings, but can take heart from their home form that has brought four wins in six games.

But points could be hard-earned against a Denbigh side who, lying fifth in the table, have proved a tough nut to crack this season. They won 40-15 at home when the sides met back in early October.

Despite the wet weather, COBRA are well up with their games and, while the football programme was ravaged in the last fortnight, the club were not due to have any fixtures due to Wales' involvement in the Six Nations championship.

Heavy rain has left their first team pitch unfit, while the club were forced to cancel training due to the conditions.

However, despite the storms, the club will be hoping to get some action this weekend as they have the option of playing on another of the better-draining pitches at their Llanfair Caereinion base.

WELSHPOOL will also be doing their utmost to get back on the pitch following their two-week break for the Six Nations Championship when they host mid-table Flint in division three (north) on Saturday.

The Maesydre side were last in action back on January 4 when hammering Holyhead 62-0 at home, but remain third from bottom in the table.

GOLF RETURNS

LLANYMYNECH

Seniors Winter Stableford (17 holes): 1 Ian Watkins 40pts, 2 Stan Smith 39pts, 3 Brian Hall 38pts.

No keeper – but Oswestry dig in against the leaders

HOCKEY
by John Bridgwater

DESPITE a spirited display, Oswestry ladies suffered their first loss in nine outings when going down 2-0 to top of the table Alderley Edge Ladies in the Cheshire Women's League division two.

Well beaten 3-0 earlier in the season, the border side could take plenty of heart from a vastly improved display which saw them succumb to two first half goals.

They had to start the match without their goalkeeper, but managed to keep their high flying hosts at bay before getting their full complement of players – much to the opposition's frustration.

However, pressure was being applied to both goals, and it was soon apparent that the Alderley team were quick on the break, and they went ahead after being awarded a fortunate short corner which found its way into the net in a scrappy goalmouth finish.

It was not long before Alderley doubled their advantage, although this time with a much better looking goal. They caught Oswestry on a break, two-on-one, before passing around the defender and hitting the ball home.

Pressure

Oswestry were able to limit the home side's chances for the rest of the half and ensured they remained just two goals down at half time.

The second half saw the visitors apply early pressure to the Alderley Edge goal but their keeper was quick to come out and block the attack, and a number of shots went wide across the face of goal – without being able to get the needed deflection.

However, Alderley were quick to apply further pressure but were unable to find any further goals due to determined – and at times creative – defending from Oswestry.

The whole team defended well although this did limit the attacking opportunities in the latter part of the second half.

Despite the defeat, it was an improved performance compared to last time they played the league leaders.

Oswestry will aim to get back to winning ways on their return to league action on March 1 when they play Macc/Bollington II at home. This Saturday they visit Shrewsbury II in a friendly fixture.

The line-up of the newly elected Wynnstay Bowls Club officers include (from left): vice captain Pam Bridge, president David Parry-Jones, re-elected captain Janice Allport and new secretary Helen Parry-Jones

Wynnstay bowlers are keeping it in the family

IT WAS a case of keeping it in the family at Wynnstay Bowling Club's annual meeting.

Retired newspaper editor David Parry-Jones was elected president for 2014-15, exactly 50 years after his father was president of the same club in 1964.

Ted Parry-Jones was editor of the Advertizer at that time, just as David was joining The Chester Chronicle of which he later became editor and then executive editor.

But that's not all, at the same meeting at Oswestry's Wynnstay Hotel, David's wife Helen was elected as club secretary to follow in the footsteps of Norma Edwards who held the post for 13 years.

The club's captain Janice Allport was elected for a second year in the top post; Pam Bridge was appointed vice captain to succeed her, Kay Cosens was re-elected as treasurer and former club captain Gerald Thomas was confirmed as president elect.

At the meeting retiring secretary Norma Edwards was presented with a silver pendant by retiring President Bill Roberts.

Anyone interested in joining the £26-a-year club is asked to contact the secretary on wynnstaybowling@gmail.com or phone Oswestry 655118.

Retiring president Bill Roberts presents a silver pendant to retiring secretary Norma Edwards after 14 years service

Eagles switch venue and suffer late blow

A LATE fightback sentenced Oswestry to a slender 10-5 loss to Isle of Man side Vagabonds that halted their revival in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

In a match switched to Whitchurch due to Granville Park being waterlogged, the game started in appalling wind conditions and pouring rain.

Vagabonds immediately put pressure on the Oswestry 10-metre line, with driving rucks and mauls, but the Eagles held up the onslaught and started to apply pressure themselves.

Dan Williams missed a penalty attempt, but the "home side" continued to enjoy plenty of game play through the pack led by captain Andy Smith, with full support from scrum-half Nick Clay driving them on in the rucks and mauls.

Vagabonds, however, managed to hold firm before finally being breached when quick ball from the ruck saw Oswestry's Nick Howland touching down for an unconverted score.

The dreadful conditions continued after the break, forcing both teams to keep the ball tight and drive on with rucks and mauls.

Oswestry, despite their efforts, were well contained by the Vagabonds who looked lively on the break, eventually finding a way through when their speedy winger shot off on a run to score for a converted try just under the posts.

The Eagles desperately tried to hit back but, with just a couple of minutes remaining, conceded a penalty which was converted as Vagabonds sealed a 10-5 success.

Both teams played well in the rain-swept encounter, with the Eagles now having to pick themselves from the defeat when they visit Southport on Saturday.

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SPORT

Lacrosse
Moreton Hall are Scottish champs
Page 39

Golf
Mile End captains drive into office
Page 38

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Adele Nicoll competing at the Nationals in Sheffield

One in and one out for Morda Road cricketers

by John Bridgwater

IT'S a case of "one in, one out" as Oswestry's cricketers assemble their squad ahead of the forthcoming season in the Birmingham League division one.

After back-to-back promotions, spirits are high in the Morda Road camp as they gear up for fresh challenges this term – but they have lost one of last season's key players, Jonathan Miles.

The 27-year-old former Surrey left arm seam bowler, who also contributed some useful runs down the order, has left to join a club in Lincolnshire. But while he heads for the exit, another opening bowler, Dan Bowen, has joined up for the new campaign from county rivals Whithurch.

Bowen has a proven record, having been a key bowler for Shropshire over the years.

Having also featured for Shrewsbury, he made his Shropshire debut aged 21 in the Trophy fixture against Cumberland during the 2010 season. His figures of 2-27 included the scalp of ex-pro Gary Pratt, the Cumberland captain.

A strong opening bowler capable of bowling quickly and swinging the ball away from the right hander, Bowen recorded Shropshire's best one day bowling figures of 6-25 in the victory over Staffordshire in 2010 which was only his third game.

And Oswestry's club captain Mike Robinson is confident that Bowen will fill the void left by the departure of Miles.

"We're very disappointed to see Jonathan go, but it's one in, one out as we've signed Dan Bowen from Whitchurch who is a very good, consistent bowler.

"Playing in division one next season is a really exciting prospect, there's a real buzz about the place as it's a massive step up and it's going to be a far stiffer test for us."

The Morda Road club are also looking to further pep up their attack by signing a paceman from South Africa, who reputedly bowls at over 90mph.

■■■■

Despite struggling for players in recent seasons, Guilsfield's cricketers look set to carry on in the Shropshire League next season.

The village club has found the going tough in recent times with players, funds and off-field commitment in short supply, but there was a defiant mood at an emergency meeting.

Another meeting has been scheduled for the Oak Inn on Thursday, February 20 at 8pm when a final decision will be made.

But there is hope for the future, with the club receiving pledges of support on and off the pitch for the coming season.

"We all left the meeting deciding that cricket in the village must survive and ultimately thrive for generations to come because once it stops, it probably won't come back," said president Ed Davies.

"It is vital that more people are involved with the running of the club and we also need to attract more players."

Eagles aim to bounce back after rare defeat

STUNG by their first loss of the year, Oswestry will be out to bounce back when they head to Southport on Saturday in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

The Eagles had managed to beat the deluge last week – but their efforts were to no avail as they slipped to a 10-5 defeat against Vagabonds, in a match switched to Whitchurch as their Granville Park base was unplayable following days of heavy rain.

Looking to consolidate their top six position, they had led at the interval with a try from Nick Howland, but succumbed after the break to a converted try and late penalty.

AFTER a two-week break, COBRA's rugby players will hope to return to duty in the Swalec League division one (north) on Saturday as they chase much needed points against visiting Denbigh.

WELSHPOOL will also be desperate to get back on the pitch following their two-week break for the Six Nations Championship when they host mid-table Flint in division three (north) on Saturday.

■ Oswestry report see page 39

Shot putt ace Adele closing in on Games

SHOT putter Adele Nicoll threw a personal indoor best at her first senior event in the Sainsbury's National Athletics Championships in Sheffield.

The Welshpool athlete, who is striving to achieve a 15 metres throw for a place in the Commonwealth Games team, threw 14.25metres to finish sixth against Britain's best senior shot putters.

"I'm really looking forward to my own age group championships coming up next weekend and I'm getting closer and closer to that desired 15m mark," said the Walford and North Shropshire College student.

And her efforts last Saturday brought praise from her coach Andy Brittan who said: "Right now I am a very proud coach after watching Welsh Athletics squad member Adele Nicoll take a great sixth place in her first senior national championships.

"Competing against the best shot putters the UK has to offer, Adele produced a throw of 14.25m, which is her second longest throw ever and a new indoor PB.

"We have the Welsh under-20 championships in Cardiff next weekend and the British under-20 championships in Sheffield on March 1 to look forward to."

Club looking for bowlers

LLANYMYNECH Bowling Club are looking for new players to bolster their squad for the forthcoming season.

The club run three teams in the Oswestry and District League, plus one in the Wem League, and welcome any degree of ability or age.

Anyone interested in playing can contact Tony Pritchard on 01691-672875 or 07973-573751.

PARK HALL SWITCH FOR SAINTS CUP TIE

by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints will look to make the most of home advantage when they tackle Carmarthen Town in their rain-ravaged Welsh Cup fourth round tie on Saturday (2.30pm).

The tie had originally been due to have been played at Carmarthen but, after two postponements due to a waterlogged pitch at Richmond Park, it will now be played at Park Hall.

Competition rules stipulate that venues must be switched after two call-offs, and head coach Carl Darlington is happy to be playing on home surrounds after the tie was postponed a second time in midweek.

Now playing on their artificial surface, the Saints – who are three times winners of the competition – will have significant advantage at a venue where they have not lost this season.

Earlier in the campaign, TNS cruised to a 6-0 victory when the sides met in the league, and will be confident of setting up a home clash with fellow high-fliers Airbus UK in the quarter-finals.

Momentum

"Carmarthen are a good side, but being at home will be a big advantage for us," said Darlington.

"It would have been tough playing away on a heavy pitch, so it will be great being at home as we haven't got the travelling, while we haven't lost at home this season so we've got the momentum here.

"We've not played a competitive game for three weeks, it's been frustrating and difficult trying to keep motivated, but it's been the same for every other side.

"We managed to get in a friendly against Guilsfield, we gave the whole squad a run-out, most for 45 minutes, a few for 55-60 minutes, and it was a good exercise for both sides."

Carmarthen have proved a tough nut to crack in the past, having already lifted the Word League Cup for a second successive season

The tie is a repeat of the 2005 final when TNS defeated the Old Gold at Llanelli 1-0 courtesy of a solitary John Lawless goal.

Mike Wilde is the only remaining TNS player to have started that match, although Steve Evans and Scott Ruscoe also played but are currently on the injured list.

The tie will be decided on the day with extra-time and penalties if needed.

New signing Fowler gets feel for the TNS shirt

Welcome to Park Hall – midfielder Lee Fowler (right) with boss Craig Harrison after signing on with TNS

MIDFIELDER Lee Fowler has become the third capture for The New Saints in the past month as the Welsh Premier high fliers strengthen their hand for the title run-in.

Following hard on the heels of youngster Ryan Edwards and defender Curtis Jones, 30-year-old Fowler this week joined TNS.

The Cardiff-born midfielder began his career with Coventry and has had spells with Huddersfield, Newport County, Forest Green and Wrexham.

Most recently, the former Wales under-21 featured for Kidderminster Harriers, and will be hoping to help his new side claim an historic eighth Welsh Premier title.

"I am pleased to have signed and it is a really good opportunity," he said.

"I have been speaking to Craig (Harrison) quite regularly over the past two seasons and I nearly signed for TNS last summer.

"I know a few of the lads here. I know Connell Rawlinson because I live in the same village as him."

Entries are invited for Welsh Rally

WELSHPOOL'S Clive Motorcycle Club is now inviting entries for the 20th Welsh National Rally later this year.

This event will take place on Saturday, May 10 and is open to all road registered motorcycles, quads and three wheelers.

The rally involves riders visiting manned and unmanned control points throughout Wales.

Breakfast and hot drinks will be available at the start/finish in Castle Caereinion and hot meals and rest facilities will be available at the finish.

Full details, entry form and regulations can be found on the club website www.clivemcc.co.uk

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